Brutal start leaves the Commanders at a loss against the winless Bears. D1

The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 · $3

McCarthy's ill-fated political power play

GOP leader helped grow the movement that would go on to crush him

BY PAUL KANE

On April 15, 2009, John A. Boehner visited his friend Kevin McCarthy in his hometown, Bakersfield, Calif., where they decided to wander into one of the first tea party rallies ever held. They didn't speak, just observed, and then they reported back to their cohorts in Washington that something was brewing.

Then-House Minority Leader Boehner (R-Ohio) deputized McCarthy (R-Calif.) to recruit candidates for what would become a historic class of 2010, and the 44-year-old, in just his second term in the House, set out to find the anti-politician candidates who met that populist movement: three car dealers, six doctors, funeral home directors, an MTV reality show star, an NFL all-pro lineman and — possibly his favorite of all — a gospel-singing farmer from Frog Jump, Tenn.

"You get enough people on their surfboards, you send them in the right direction and see how many can get to shore," McCarthy told The Washington Post in a January 2010 interview.

More than 85 political surfers made it to shore in the November 2010 elections that put Republicans in charge — a political wave

SEE MCCARTHY ON A4

Shutdown fears: A flailing House GOP renews worries in Congress. **A5**

For hire: After ouster, a small pool of candidates for speakership. **C1**

GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP

A senator's final send-off in the city where she began her service

Dianne Feinstein, the longtime U.S. senator who died Sept. 29 at age 90, was buried Thursday after a service at San Francisco City Hall. From left above, Mayor London Breed, Vice President Harris, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Eileen Mariano, Feinstein's granddaughter, attended. "Within Dianne's very soul," President Biden said in prerecorded remarks, "lay the defining trait of great leaders: character." At right, mourners leave notes.

MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Border barriers get new urgency

LEGAL WAIVERS WILL HASTEN THE WORK

Venezuela deportations also resume amid surge

BY NICK MIROFF AND MARIA SACCHETTI

U.S. officials said Thursday that they will resume direct deportation flights to Venezuela and fast-track construction of new barriers along the southern border, moves aimed at curbing the record number of illegal crossings into the United States under President Biden.

Nearly 500,000 Venezuelans have crossed the southern border since 2020, and U.S. authorities have had little ability to return them as a result of strained U.S. relations with the autocratic government of President Nicolás Maduro.

Biden officials who briefed reporters on the plans Thursday did not say how many deportation flights they planned to send, and they declined to discuss negotiations with the Maduro government. The announcement comes two weeks after Biden extended temporary legal status to more than 470,000 Venezuelans living in the United States, saying political and economic turmoil in their homeland made it unsafe to send them home.

Only Venezuelans who arrived before July 31 are eligible for the temporary legal status, and Biden officials said those who have arrived illegally since then will be a priority for the deportation flights.

Venezuelans account for the largest number of migrants staying in badly strained shelters in New York, whose mayor, Eric Adams (D), has become a sharp critic of President Biden's handling of border issues. Other Democrats have criticized Biden for leaving in place U.S. economic sanctions on Venezuela that they say are driving even more people to flee.

The Maduro government is-

SEE BORDER ON A6

Strike on memorial service in Ukraine kills 51

One of war's deadliest attacks comes as Zelensky seeks more aid

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND KAMILA HRABCHUK

KYIV — In one of the war's deadliest missile strikes to date, 51 people were killed in Ukraine's northeast Kharkiv region on Thursday — what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described as a "fully deliberate terrorist attack" by Russia.

Initial reports said a missile hit a grocery store and cafe in the village of Hroza, about 20 miles outside of the city of Kupyansk, which has been the focus of a fierce Russian military offensive as Ukrainian forces try to expel the occupying Russian forces elsewhere on the front.

The dead included a 6-year-old child, according to the Kharkiv region's governor, Oleh Synyehubov, who said that six others were injured. Search-and-rescue operations were completed late Thursday, according to Ukraine's Interior Ministry.

At the time of the attack, about 60 people were gathered in one place attending a memorial service for a Ukrainian soldier who had died on the battlefield, according to a law enforcement official working in the Kharkiv region.

The official, who spoke on the

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

Wagner crash: Putin said grenade fragments were found in victims. **A9**

Aid uncertainty: Biden team tries to deal with House turmoil. **A10**

NFL goes all in with gambling, Las Vegas

After changes to laws, league embraces betting and city it once scorned

BY ADAM KILGORE

In the early 2000s, during his nascent days as mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar Goodman asked for a meeting with NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue. He envisioned a franchise in his city, which at the time professional sports leagues treated as a third rail. Vegas meant gambling, and gambling meant a threat — whether perceived or real — to fans' trust in the integrity of the games. Tagliabue met with Goodman, but he made clear that Goodman's vision would never happen.

"We were poison," said Carolyn Goodman, who replaced her husband as Las Vegas's mayor in 2011. "It was solid steel never, no. There was no wiggle room there. The door was closed, locked, sealed."

The city would discover just how firmly the NFL stood against it. In 2003, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

SEE GAMBLING ON A7

WANG YE/XINHUA/ALAMY LIVE NEWS/AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Honduran President Xiomara Castro outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 12 during her state visit to China. In March, Honduras established diplomatic relations with China, breaking its decades-long ties with Taiwan.

CHINA'S GLOBAL LEAP

As Beijing arrives with a splash in Honduras, the U.S. wrings its hands

BY KAREN DEYOUNG

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS — When the leader of this impoverished Central American country visited Beijing in June, China laid out the warmest of welcomes. There was a state dinner in the president's honor in the Great Hall with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, a 21-gun salute in Tiananmen Square and lengthy bilateral talks over a six-day visit.

For China, the attention granted to Honduras — long among the most docile of U.S. regional partners — was both payment and propaganda. Less than three months before President Xiomara Castro's arrival, despite energetic appeals and warnings of duplicitous Chinese wooing from the Biden administration, Honduras had established diplomatic relations with China, breaking its decades-long ties with Taiwan.

In the global arena of U.S.-China competition, it was clearly a win for Beijing. But beyond the chagrin at China's latest foreign policy victory, Biden administration and U.S. military officials see potentially ominous strategic implications.

Honduras hosts an American military base, Soto Cano, with up to 1,500 U.S. troops and a joint task force managing regional U.S. policy priorities such as narcotics trafficking, organized crime and migration, as well as disaster relief and training. Among its

SEE CHINA ON A12

IN THE NEWS

Small steps, giant leaps Footprints in New Mexico have upset core ideas about how and when people arrived in the Americas. A3

World War II mystery A Marine who fought and died in the Pacific, and whose remains were identified last year, is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. B1

THE NATION

An armed man arrested after trying to see Wisconsin's governor returned with a rifle. A2

Lawyers urged a federal judge to toss the election indictment against Donald Trump. A6

THE WORLD

Frustration with the Taliban fueled Pakistan's plan to deport 1.7 million Afghans. A8

A drone attack during graduation at a military academy in central Syria killed dozens. A9

THE ECONOMY

Automotive suppliers have laid off over 3,000 employees as a result of the United Auto Workers strike. A14

President Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are set to meet in November, officials said, in a bid to improve rocky relations. A16

THE REGION

About half the deaths in Maryland detention centers occur within the first 10 days of incarceration, a study found. B1

Glenn Youngkin, who as Virginia's governor issued a TikTok ban, accepted a $2 million donation from one of the app's investors. B1

STYLE

Viola Fletcher, the oldest living survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, is still pushing for reparations. C1

WEEKEND

From the familiar to the far afield, Post food critic Tom Sietsema offers six D.C.-area fall dining destinations.

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CORRECTION

• A Sept. 27 A-section article about migrants who have gone missing in the Mediterranean Sea incorrectly said Mediterranean countries agreed in 2018 to share forensic information with the European Commission. The agreement was to share information with the International Commission on Missing Persons.

The Washington Post is committed to correcting errors that appear in the newspaper. Those interested in contacting the paper for that purpose can:
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Ariz. law could delay certifying 2024 election

Measure passed after the narrow 2020 contest lowers bar for recounts

BY YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ

JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

Election workers process ballots in Maricopa County on Nov. 10 in Phoenix. "The entire United States would have to be waiting on us," Kent Volkmer, an attorney representing Pinal County, said of a new law, which could cause Arizona to miss immovable election deadlines.

PHOENIX — If the 2024 presidential election is close in Arizona, a newly enacted state law will mandate a ballot recount that will probably cause the state to miss crucial deadlines for certifying the vote, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post and interviews with elections officials.

Arizona was central to attempts by President Donald Trump and his allies to change the outcome of the 2020 election, and many Republican primary voters in the state continue to be fixated on election denialism, a movement stoked by Trump and others who refuse to accept the results. The battleground state is expected to play a pivotal role in the next presidential election, and any holdup in counting votes there could cause chaos.

In a Sept. 11 letter to the County Supervisors Association of Arizona and the Arizona Association of Counties, an organization representing election officials from all of the state's 15 counties wrote that the new law — passed after President Biden's narrow win in Arizona in 2020 — will "put in jeopardy" immovable deadlines on the election calendar, including those that are part of the electoral college process and those that confirm the winners of August primaries so that general-election ballots can be mailed to military and overseas voters.

In a worst-case scenario, more than half a dozen election officials told The Post, Arizona could delay pivotal steps in the process for sitting a president.

The prospect of triggering an electoral crisis has led voting administrators, their lawyers and organizations that represent them to demand immediate solutions from Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs (D) and leaders in the GOP-controlled legislature. One major proposal would move Arizona's primary election earlier in the summer. Other ideas to buy more time during the general election include speeding up the proofreading of ballots and allowing local officials to more quickly transmit results to the state.

"The entire United States would have to be waiting on us," said Kent Volkmer, the attorney representing Pinal County, which is southeast of Phoenix and is among the state's most conservative areas. "The entirety of the American people will be waiting on the state of Arizona."

Sam Elters, the county manager of Mohave County, a conservative area in northern Arizona, said in an interview that the concerns "are real and impactful to" every county.

"Not meeting the timelines could have very consequential implications on the state's ability to certify the election results nationally and locally," Elters said.

A confluence of factors has stirred alarm among elections officials.

After Trump's razor-thin loss in 2020 that ushered in attacks on the once-obscure management of elections, Republican and Democratic lawmakers proposed a measure intended to strengthen confidence in electoral outcomes. The measure lowered the threshold that triggers automatic recounts in certain races, including statewide and legislative ones.

At the time, county officials warned that the proposal would increase the number of contests needing time-intensive recounts. They also said the measure could complicate their abilities to hit mandatory deadlines between primary and general elections. The implications of the bipartisan law have not been tested during a full election cycle because the law did not take effect until the 2022 midterm general election.

Previously, recounts in Arizona were infrequent. But the competitive nature of the state, combined with the new law, resulted in at least three recounts last November — one for a legislative seat in a swing district and two for statewide offices, including the contest for attorney general that was won by just 280 votes.

Based on that experience, and projecting higher voter turnout during the presidential cycle, election officials estimate that it will take about three weeks to recount ballots during the August primary election. It could take even longer to recount votes after the 2024 general election, officials said, pushing up against the deadline for the issuance of certificates of ascertainment of presidential electors, as well as the meeting of electors to vote for president and vice president.

"We're unfortunately moving into a perfect storm of timing," said Jennifer Marson, executive director of the Arizona Association of Counties, which lobbies for counties.

She said it is unclear what would happen if the state misses two pivotal dates that are part of the presidential certification process, namely the Dec. 17, 2024, vote of electors that helps determine an electoral-college winner.

"If we miss that deadline, we are in uncharted territory," Marson said. "To my knowledge, that deadline has never been missed by any state — ever."

For a mandatory recount, election workers would have to wait for an order from a court and then re-tally millions of ballots through tabulation machines and audit samples of those ballots. After the primary, this would have to happen while simultaneously preparing to run the general election.

Scott Jarrett — elections director in Maricopa, the state's largest county, and president of the Election Officials of Arizona, which represents election officials in all 15 counties — wrote in the letter to the two organizations that represent the state's counties that the situation "would introduce opportunities for errors and inaccuracies."

Election officials face strict and complex timelines set by federal and state laws that affect everything from ensuring the accuracy of candidate names, to printing ballots, to inserting ballots into envelopes, to mailing ballots to military and overseas voters 45 days before the election — or Sept. 21, 2024, according to the letter.

Color-coded calendars gaming out the scenario illustrate the problem, with anticipated primary-election recount activities overlapping with deadlines ahead of — and well past — the general election.

One version of the calendar estimates that counties would begin transmitting results to the Arizona secretary of state on Dec. 16, 2024 — a day before electors are required to meet to cast votes for president and vice president, according to the National Archives's timeline of electoral college events. That version pegs the results of the state's recounts to become available on Dec. 28, 2024.

To prepare for anticipated recounts, officials are looking for ways to build in extra time to conduct the anticipated re-tallies. They are considering options that would move up the dates of certain duties required under state law and shorten the amount of time to perform them.

Options to buy time include moving the date of the Aug. 6 primary election to earlier in the summer, reducing the number of days to proofread ballots, ensuring that courts can work during the weekends to order recounts and allowing rural officials to transmit election results electronically rather than driving them to the secretary of state's office in Phoenix.

Members of the two associations that represent Arizona counties passed a resolution in September conveying an urgent need for state leaders to act, given the fast-approaching election calendar. The problem, the resolution said, "is neither a financial nor personnel problem, but a problem of statutory timelines and deadlines."

Election officials met this week with the governor's chief of staff, attorney and top legislative aides, who created a task force that is also examining election laws and procedures. During the meeting, the aides expressed interest in resolving the issue but did not elaborate on how they would approach the problem, according to the three people familiar with the conversation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details about the private meeting. Hobbs's aides told The Post on Wednesday that the governor's team has begun talking to state lawmakers about the issue.

Hobbs, who was secretary of state during the 2020 election, said that she is aware of expected effects of the new recount law and is "glad to partner with elections officials" for a legislative fix.

"In 2024, all eyes will be on Arizona," Hobbs said in a statement. "We must ensure that Arizonans' votes are counted, including in the presidential election, and that the American people have full confidence in our election processes and our democracy."

In recent weeks, Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes (D) and his team have met with local election officials and their representatives to help game out options to fix the problem. Fontes has also been examining the implications of the new recount law and how proposed fixes could affect county operations.

"As chief elections officer for the state, the secretary's job is to ensure that the proposed solution works for all of Arizona's 15 counties," said Paul Smith-Leonard, a spokesman for the secretary of state.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes (D) is "aware of the issue" and is meeting with county election officials this month to explore possible solutions, a spokesperson said.

One elections director from a conservative, rural Arizona county, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the looming problem, expressed optimism that a solution would be found.

"I'm very hopeful that working with our legislators will result in a solution that will allow Arizona election officials the days they need to statutorily conduct automatic recounts," the director said in a written statement.

Police say man with gun seeking Wis. governor returned with rifle after bail

BY PATRICK MARLEY

MADISON, WIS. — A man with a handgun showed up at the Wisconsin Capitol demanding to see Gov. Tony Evers (D) on Wednesday, was arrested, posted bail, returned with a rifle and was taken into protective custody, according to police.

The shirtless man had a holstered handgun and leashed dog with him when he appeared at the security desk outside of the governor's Capitol office Wednesday afternoon demanding to talk to the governor about "domestic abuse towards men," according to a spokeswoman for the Wisconsin Capitol Police and a police bulletin sent to state lawmakers. An officer arrested him for openly carrying a firearm.

The 43-year-old Madison man was booked into jail and posted $500 bail, according to police and the Dane County Jail. He returned to the outside of the Capitol with a loaded AK-47 around 9 p.m., three hours after it closed, according to the state police. He asked to see the governor again. Officers spoke with him and asked to search his backpack. He agreed and they found a police-style baton, which they said violated state law because the man did not have a concealed-weapons permit, according to police.

MORRY GASH/AP

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) in January. "I'm okay," he told reporters Thursday.

Officers took the man into protective custody for a psychiatric evaluation shortly before midnight based on "concerning statements" the man made, according to a statement from police spokeswoman Tatyana Warrick.

"I'm okay," Evers told reporters Thursday, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "To their credit, the Capitol Police took control of the situation."

The Associated Press first reported on the incident.

The Wisconsin Capitol does not require visitors to go through metal detectors or security screening. People stream in and out of the building throughout the day for state business, tours or as a shortcut to walk across downtown. On Thursday, two officers were posted in the rotunda, as is common, but there were no signs of stepped-up security.

The incident occurred a year after Evers's name appeared on a hit list of a man suspected of killing a retired county judge. The alleged assailant in that incident died soon after the judge was fatally shot.

In 2020, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) was targeted in a kidnapping plot. Nine people were convicted of charges stemming from that plot, and five were acquitted.

U.S. jet shoots down armed Turkish drone approaching troops in Syria

BY DAN LAMOTHE

An American fighter jet shot down an armed Turkish drone on Thursday as the unmanned aircraft approached U.S. troops in northern Syria, the Pentagon said, acknowledging an unusual, alarming encounter between NATO allies that occurred as deadly violence has spiked throughout the region.

Air Force F-16s closed in on the drone about 11:40 a.m. local time after it came within a half-mile of American troops in Hasakah, said Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman. Hours earlier, U.S. military personnel, who are partnered with Kurdish forces there as part of a long-running mission to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State, observed a barrage of airstrikes nearby, he said.

"It's a regrettable incident, but U.S. commanders on the ground did assess that there was a potential threat, so they took prudent action," Ryder said.

Turkey's embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

The incident prompted a series of phone calls between top U.S. and Turkish military officials. It follows days of escalating conflict between Turkey and the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has fought a long insurgency against the Turkish state.

Turkey deems the Kurdish forces partnered with U.S. troops in Syria, a militia group known as the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, to be an affiliate of the PKK. The U.S. government disagrees.

On Sunday, two suspected PKK militants carried out a suicide bombing near government buildings in Ankara, the Turkish capital. The attackers were killed and two Turkish policemen were wounded.

The same day, Turkey's Defense Ministry announced military operations against the PKK in northern Iraq — action that was taken, the ministry said, "to eliminate terrorist attacks against our people."

On Wednesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said the Ankara attackers had come to Turkey from Syria, where he said they were trained. Turkey's response to the attack would be "very clear," he said, warning that for Turkey, "all infrastructure-superstructure and energy facilities belonging to the PKK and YPG in Iraq and Syria are the legitimate targets," according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Fidan also warned unnamed "third parties" to stay away from such facilities, in a possible reference to foreign forces present in northern Syria, including the United States.

A seemingly unrelated drone attack on a military academy in Homs, in central Syria, killed at least 80 people on Thursday, Syrian authorities said.

Though longtime NATO allies, the United States and Turkey have a complicated relationship. The two have clashed over human rights, Ankara's closeness with Moscow and, most recently, its opposition to Sweden's entry into the military alliance.

U.S. officials declined to comment on the shoot-down for hours, waiting until after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Turkish counterpart, Defense Minister Yasar Guler. Ryder, addressing reporters at the Pentagon, said that Turkey remains one of Washington's strongest and most-valued allies. The two senior defense officials pledged to each other that the United States and Turkey would "closely communicate and coordinate."

Kareem Fahim in Datca, Turkey, and Sarah Dadouch in Beirut contributed to this report.

POLITICS & THE NATION

Footprints may recast the history of humans in Americas

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

Dozens of awe-inspiring ancient footprints left on the shores of an ice age lake have reignited a long-running debate about when the first people arrived in the Americas.

Two years ago, a team of scientists came to the conclusion that human tracks sunk into the mud in White Sands National Park in New Mexico were more than 21,000 years old. The provocative finding threatened the dominant thinking on when and how people migrated into the Americas. Soon afterward, a technical debate erupted about the method used to estimate the age of the tracks, which relied on an analysis of plant seeds embedded with the footprints.

Now, a study published in the journal Science confirms the initial finding with two new lines of evidence: thousands of grains of pollen and an analysis of quartz crystals in the sediments.

"It's more or less a master class in how you do this," said Edward Jolie, an anthropological archaeologist at the University of Arizona who has studied the White Sands footprints in the field but was not involved in the new study. "As Carl Sagan said, 'Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.' They have some extraordinary evidence."

Lorena Becerra-Valdivia, a fellow at the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit, said that the results support her modeling work, which suggested that people first crossed into present-day North America before 29,000 years ago, possibly traveling via the ocean.

"If anything, early findings like the White Sands footprints should inspire further scientific investigation in what is a dynamic and changing field," Becerra-Valdivia said.

Some critics who raised concerns about the initial study said that they were encouraged by the follow-up analyses but remained unconvinced.

"I don't agree that it resolved the issue of the timing, but they have made progress," said Loren Davis, an anthropologist at Oregon State University. "Knowing the age of this is important, because if these researchers are correct and people are truly in New Mexico at 23,000 years ago, or even 21,000 years ago, it means we have to change our fundamental understanding of some things."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Footprints found at White Sands National Park in New Mexico offer a glimpse of what life was like around an ice age lake. New evidence bolsters the case that they were made over 21,000 years ago.

A snapshot of life in the Pleistocene

Fossil footprints were first seen in New Mexico's Tularosa Basin in the early 1930s and were initially thought to be evidence of a bigfoot, said David F. Bustos, a resource program manager at White Sands National Park. They turned out to be from a giant ground sloth, a 2,000-pound mammal that went extinct around 10,000 years ago. Researchers also found tracks from trudging mammoths, a dire wolf and other ice age creatures.

Bustos said he first saw fossilized footprints in the basin that looked human in 2009, and a growing team of scientists began to study them. Those tracks brought to life a vivid snapshot of the Pleistocene, the epoch that started 2.6 million years ago and ended 11,700 years ago.

The thousands of footprints found in White Sands are an extraordinary but evanescent record of life around Lake Otero, the body of water that rested inside the basin during the Pleistocene. The ancient tracks are the remnants of complex interactions. Children played. Humans stalked giant sloths. A person walked a mile, carrying a child and placing them down occasionally. But the fossilized prints are slowly being destroyed by erosion — they are so soft they can be cut with a butter knife.

"It was hard to believe that humans could be walking along with the mammoth prints nearby, and that the prints could be of the same age," Bustos said.

To place these interactions in time, Kathleen Springer and Jeffrey Pigati, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey who typically spend their time studying the paleoclimate, joined the team of scientists working on the prints.

They began the work in January 2020, taking samples of seeds from an aquatic plant called ditchgrass that was interspersed with the footprints. Using careful geologic studies and radiocarbon dating, they got an astonishing result: The prints were 21,000 to 23,000 years old.

"It was kind of a big deal and earth-shattering and rocked the world of the archaeologists," Springer said.

For decades, experts believed the first people in the Americas migrated from Siberia across the Bering Strait on a land bridge exposed during the last glacial maximum, sometime between 26,500 and 19,000 years ago. The land bridge was then submerged as ice sheets melted around 13,000 years ago. These people, the thinking went, developed the 13,000-year-old Clovis culture in New Mexico, which was characterized by the use of distinctive stone points.

In recent decades, archaeologists have found evidence that disrupts this "Clovis First" hypothesis. But the thinking that has continued to dominate the field is that people's travel into the Americas would have been blocked by ice sheets, making much earlier arrivals over land unlikely.

The White Sands footprints, which appear to have been made during the last glacial maximum, would require a radical rethinking of long-standing assumptions about how people got here — one that has been welcomed by some scholars and rejected by others.

For many Indigenous people, the study is simply a confirmation of things they already knew from knowledge passed down over generations, said Kim Pasqual-Charlie, a member of the Pueblo of Acoma who has visited the site many times.

"These are our ancestral footprints," Pasqual-Charlie said.

Paulette Steeves, an Indigenous archaeologist and a professor at Algoma University, has compiled a database of the evidence for earlier human presence in the Americas. She said that the White Sands find is only one strand in a growing body of evidence that people were in the Americas much earlier than archaeologists long believed.

"Think about the rest of the world [and] how much our understanding of human evolution has grown and been informed due to more archaeological work in the advancement of sciences. However, in the Americas, it has remained static," Steeves said. "When it comes to adding Indigenous voices and expanding the time frame for Indigenous peoples in the Americas, there is still a lot of racism and bias in American archaeology."

But there was a known problem with dating a site using ditchgrass seeds. Because ditchgrass is an aquatic plant, it takes in carbon dissolved in the water during photosynthesis. That could include older sources of carbon that can make the seeds look artificially old. Oregon State's Davis worked with a team that took ditchgrass samples from 1947 and analyzed them using radiocarbon dating. The results suggested the plants were 7,400 years older than they were.

So he and other scientists asked for additional lines of evidence.

"You're talking about a potential paradigm shift regarding the peopling of North America," said David Rachal, a geoarchaeology consultant who was also critical of the original study and remains skeptical of the new one. "We have good models to say when people showed up and got on the scene. If it pushes back, it will upset everything we think we know."

Analyzing ancient pine pollen and crystals of quartz

Springer and Pigati were keenly aware of the shortcomings of ditchgrass as a dating method and had always planned to see whether other streams of evidence supported their initial study.

For the follow-up, they gathered ancient pollen from coniferous trees that was embedded around the footprints. This type of material would not have the same problem as aquatic plants, because trees take carbon from the atmosphere. They also used a technique called "optically stimulated luminescence" to measure the energy built up in crystals of quartz within the White Sands sediments. This method allowed them to calculate the last time the mud that contains the footprints was exposed to sunlight or heat.

The pollen study was an arduous undertaking, requiring scientists in four laboratories scattered across the United States to work together to prepare and analyze the age of 75,000 grains of pollen. Using radiocarbon dating, they found the pollen from conifer trees dated to 22,600 to 23,400 years ago, matching their first results.

Their study of the quartz crystals showed they were 21,500 years old, give or take 2,000 years.

"I think that this study is so far the most convincing evidence of early human presence in the Americas," said Bente Philippsen, leader of the National Laboratory for Age Determination at Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Others raised technical questions about the methods and sampling. Rachal said it was possible that the pollen was "reworked," meaning that older pollen could have gotten into the samples. Davis said he was glad to see the quartz crystal analysis but wanted to see more samples taken from different layers.

Springer and Pigati argued that their evidence is solid, and they will continue to work at the site.

"It didn't bother me at first, but it's starting to really nudge at me, I guess you could say," said Pasqual-Charlie, of the Pueblo of Acoma. "How much more evidence do you need to say: We did exist back then. We've been in the Southwest region for a very long time."

Jolie, of the University of Arizona, said that a debate about the dating methods may continue back and forth for years — and that is part of how science moves forward. But he added that for him, as a scientist and a person with mixed Oglala Lakota and Hodulgee Muscogee ancestry, the site brings to life a crucial period of human history that had been off limits, erased by the passage of time and the changing landscape.

"It's a fun way to think about a shared common past for a lot of Native people," Jolie said. "You can visualize little kids splashing in the mud. There's nothing quite like seeing that little toddler footprint in the sand."

DIGEST

NEW YORK

Subway gunman sentenced to life

The gunman who opened fire on a rush-hour train in New York in April 2022, wounding 10 morning commuters, was sentenced Thursday to life behind bars on terrorism charges in federal court in Brooklyn.

Judge William F. Kuntz II sentenced Frank James, 64, on 10 counts of terrorism and a single count of discharging a weapon for the shooting.

While the fusillade of shots miraculously killed no one, some survivors of the attack said they were left with life-threatening wounds and persisting psychological trauma. A student at NYU detailed five shots that crippled his leg, and the enduring PTSD that forced him to drop out of school.

James, in his own statement, said a lack of mental health services and decades of crippling poverty drove him to his actions.

Disguised as a construction worker, James lobbed two smoke grenades into a busy Manhattan-bound train cart before unloading a barrage of bullets, then disappearing into the frenzied crowd.

Investigators discovered his identity through bags he left on the train cart which contained more smoke grenades, another firearm, a hatchet, gasoline and a key to a U-Haul he had rented in his name. He was arrested in the East Village almost 30 hours after the shooting, calling in a tip on himself. He pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in December.

— Wesley Parnell

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Activist swaps parties to run as independent

Cornel West, a liberal activist who launched a presidential bid in June, announced Thursday that he will leave the Green Party and run as an independent instead.

In a campaign statement, the long-shot candidate and left-wing academic said he was making the switch to ensure "true democracy."

"Democracy means more choices, not backroom deals; it means freedom to vote your conscience without being shamed or bullied," his campaign stated. "As Dr. West's campaign for president grows, he believes the best way to challenge the entrenched system is by focusing 100 percent on the people, not on the intricacies of internal party dynamics."

This is the second time West has changed his mind about how he will approach his campaign. When he launched his effort, West said he would run for the People's Party nomination, then abandoned that strategy to focus on the Green Party, which already had greater ballot access.

As an independent candidate, West will have to do the work to get on the ballot in the District of Columbia and the 17 states where the Green Party now claims to have ballot access for 2024.

West held a fundraiser this week in Washington, where he made no mention of his impending decision to leave the Green Party. Some in attendance at the fundraiser wore Green Party items, so it is unclear whether his supporters were aware he was considering a switch to running as an independent.

— Amy B Wang and Michael Scherer

TENNESSEE

FedEx plane with 3 onboard crash lands

A FedEx plane skidded off the runway during a crash landing at a Tennessee airport when its landing gear did not descend, but no one was injured, officials said.

Public safety agencies rushed to the Chattanooga Regional Airport late Wednesday after reports that the FedEx Boeing 757 had experienced a landing gear failure shortly after takeoff, the Chattanooga Fire Department said in a tweet. The aircraft, which had three crew members aboard, circled and then made its final descent and came to rest beyond the runway in a safety area, fire officials said.

Video posted by Hamilton County EMS shows sparks flying when the plane touches down, but officials said there was no fire.

A FedEx spokesperson told news outlets the flight from Chattanooga to Memphis experienced an issue right after taking off.

— Associated Press

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McCarthy misjudged the political wave that devoured him

MCCARTHY FROM A1

that elevated Boehner to House speaker; Eric Cantor (R-Va.) to majority leader; and McCarthy to majority whip. Their friend Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) became the top policy wizard as chair of the House Budget Committee.

Less than 13 years later, all four have been devoured by the very forces they helped launch. One by one, each got booted out of office by rabble-rousing disrupters who, after first taking flight in 2010, came to dominate national Republican politics following Donald Trump's ascendancy to the White House in 2017.

McCarthy — the tactician who was the least substantive of the quartet — managed to last the longest, until Tuesday. A small band of GOP rebels linked arms with Democrats to oust him as House speaker, the first time in U.S. history that a sitting speaker had been expelled through the obscure motion to vacate.

McCarthy and his self-branded "Young Gun" cohorts, Cantor and Ryan, tried to breed a new generation of conservatives. Boehner, by contrast, tried to steer them all toward achievable, albeit somewhat incremental, conservative wins at a time when Democrats controlled the Senate and the White House. Rather than working their way up the ranks to become subcommittee chairs, this brash new generation found the spotlight on social media and in conservative news outlets that didn't exist 20 years ago.

Boehner — who arrived in Congress in 1991 as a backbench bomb-thrower — quickly found an incentive structure that rewarded more studious and grounded action. By last January, after McCarthy needed 15 ballots to claim the speaker's gavel, the incentives all skewed the opposite direction.

And Tuesday, eight Republicans, most hailing from deep conservative district where voters loathe the establishment, assumed they would be rewarded in a primary for ousting a GOP leader who fits the label of career politician.

"I'm not quite sure those individuals are looking to be productive. It concerns me as a Republican based upon watching what they do. I want to be a Republican and a conservative that governs," McCarthy told reporters at a free-flowing, sometimes rambling 46-minute news conference late Tuesday.

Just look at Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) and Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), both of whom never held any political office until January 2021. Boebert had previously been a bar owner in western Colorado. Greene owned a CrossFit gym in northern Georgia.

Boebert has 2.9 million followers on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Greene has 2.7 million

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), seen in July, was ousted as House speaker on Tuesday. As far back as 2009, the Republican leader tried to channel the anti-politician, tea party wave building into a political force, but the new generation had no desire to play by the old rules.

followers. The former speaker managed 2.8 million followers, about the same as two relative newcomers who would have been gadflies in a different era of Congress, if they even got elected.

Instead, Boebert and Greene got into a loud, expletive-laced shouting match on the House floor in June over who deserved more credit for trying to impeach President Biden. Boebert forced a vote, temporarily sidelining the effort, but Greene used her close ties to McCarthy to force him into announcing an impeachment inquiry last month that so far is off to a slow start and has not uncovered any direct evidence of Biden misdeeds.

"I just think we live in a different era altogether. I'm not a sociologist, but I think we live in a different era all around," Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) said in an interview after Tuesday's tumultuous vote.

Diaz-Balart first won office, to the Florida state House, in 1988, worked his way to the state Senate in 1992 and, after winning a House seat in 2002, eventually became a prominent member of the House Appropriations Committee, overseeing the State Department's budget.

It's the old-fashioned route to power that has gone quite out of vogue in today's politics. And while he argued that Democrats have similar issues with young liberal stars in their caucus, Diaz-Balart acknowledged that the House GOP is its own unusual beast.

"Republicans tend to be a lot more independent-minded than Democrats," he said.

Chaos among House Republicans now can be considered a feature of their governance, not a bug.

Over the past 30 years, Democrats have had the House majority for about a decade. The federal government has never shut down on their watch. They have had two House speakers, the late Tom Foley (Wash.) in 1993 to 1994 and Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) for two stints.

The House Republican majority from 1995 through 2006 had just two speakers, with one series of government shutdowns.

Boehner lasted a little less than five years as speaker, overseeing a 16-day shutdown in 2013, while Ryan made it a little more than three years as speaker. A 34-day shutdown launched as he left Congress at the end of 2018.

McCarthy did not make it nine full months as speaker and got voted out after refusing to shut down the government by working with Democrats to pass a bipartisan funding bill. A shutdown could start in mid-November unless the next GOP speaker can work in bipartisan talks without fear of losing the gavel.

McCarthy's allies often blame the incredibly narrow majority for his problems, starting the year with 222 Republicans and 213 Democrats.

But there's nothing unique about such narrow majorities. Pelosi had the same margin in 2021 and 2022, and moreover, the GOP majority also had long stretches from 1999 through 2002 when they also had exactly 222 members in their caucus.

Over that four-year span, with a more powerful leadership team, Republicans lost just two procedural votes known as the rule. McCarthy lost two rule votes in back-to-back weeks last month, making three total since June.

The old GOP leaders devoted most of their time toward bills that would boost their members in tough political districts and did not cater to those from safe Republican strongholds.

"We ran our caucus to basically support members in swing districts. That's how we got power," said Thomas M. Davis III, the former Northern Virginia lawmaker who served as top GOP campaign strategist in the 2000 and 2002 elections. "Today, they run the caucus now to protect members from R+30 districts to protect them in primaries."

A glance at the House legislative schedule in September backed this up, as McCarthy bowed to right-wing lawmakers again by forcing his committee chairs to write very conservative legislation to appease the hard-line wing.

He regularly forced swing-district Republicans, 18 of whom hail from districts that favored Biden in 2000, to vote for legislation that had no chance of becoming law and, in some cases, still did not mollify the far right and lost on the House floor.

Of the hundreds of amendments the House considered last month, the overwhelming majority came from members of the Freedom Caucus and other similarly aligned far-right conservatives, rather than from working with those on the political front lines to craft amendments that would help them in their swing districts.

"This place has changed dramatically. Cable networks and social media have just created opportunities for those who originally would have been kind of waiting their time and working their way up in a structure where a speaker was important," Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) said Wednesday.

After eight years in the Kansas state Senate, Moran arrived in Washington in 1997 as a House freshman. He took a seat on the House Agriculture and Transportation committees, key panels for steering resources back to his sprawling rural district.

In 2010, Moran ran for the Senate and took on several difficult jobs. He now serves as the top Republican on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

His replacement in the House, Tim Huelskamp, joined that massive House GOP class of 2010 and took the opposite path of Moran.

He devoted most of his time to working against Boehner, Cantor and McCarthy, so much so that in late 2012, they kicked him off the critical Agriculture Committee.

He told Roll Call at the time that he asked participants in a telephone town hall whether he should vote for Boehner for speaker in January 2013. "It was 12 percent," he said.

Rather than cower in fear from losing his key committee spot, Huelskamp helped lead a failed coup attempt against Boehner. In 2015, he helped launch the Freedom Caucus, whose members drove Boehner into resignation in October 2015.

Facing a similar dilemma as McCarthy, Boehner decided to retire rather than force his members to vote on the motion to vacate.

McCarthy initially got anointed as Boehner's successor, but the same hard-right elements snuffed out his bid, leaving Ryan as the only Republican capable of winning the necessary votes.

By the time Ryan departed in late 2018, his relationship with President Donald Trump was in tatters, a large number of Freedom Caucus members despised him, and the GOP had been dumped into the minority.

That allowed McCarthy to become minority leader in January 2019, a post that can be won on an internal secret ballot without the requirement of winning a public floor vote like House speaker does.

He made peace with several staunch conservatives, such as Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), and he stuck close to Trump as he headed into the 2020 campaign. In a 2019 interview during a GOP retreat in Baltimore, McCarthy accurately predicted that "socialism vs. freedom" would be a winning message in the campaigns, boosting candidates who railed against liberal drift.

Unexpectedly, House Republicans won 11 seats on Election Day 2020, when Biden won the popular vote by more than 7 million votes. That placed McCarthy at 213 seats, a handful away from the majority, and rather than ditching Trump after he inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, he embraced him in the belief that Republicans needed his supporters to turn out in the 2022 elections.

Those Trump backers were, essentially, the same type of voters who were in Bakersfield at the 2009 tea party rally. "The people participating in these protests will be the soldiers for our cause a year from now," Boehner told GOP leaders after that event.

It came in one of many accounts he and McCarthy have told over the years, meant as an apocryphal moment where they realized they could ride this political bull to power.

But that movement did not want to hear from them. As one local account of the 2009 rally reported, they were prohibited from speaking in front of the 2,500 attendees.

McCarthy went on to find the candidates who met that moment and won the majority, but they also set off a political wildfire that is still raging.

"I believe in bringing new blood up and helping them," McCarthy said at the conclusion of Tuesday's news conference. "And I want to help them all the way."

Too many members of the new blood did not return the favor.

Republican dinner in rural Wis. illustrates infighting that felled McCarthy

Some attendees warn of perils of intraparty rifts; others back hard line

BY PATRICK MARLEY

ADAMS, WIS. — A couple of hours after a small band of conservative House members engineered the ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), a Wisconsin legislator from a rural county in the heart of this battleground state addressed his fellow Republicans at a Lincoln Day dinner — and was promptly interrupted by a man dressed as Abraham Lincoln.

The presidential impersonator, adorned in a stovepipe hat and long black coat, accused the legislator of not being conservative enough.

Scott Krug, a seven-term state lawmaker who nearly always votes with his party but has argued for compromise with the state's Democratic governor on election policies, shook his head.

Both men serve on the Adams County Board, and Krug chalked up the outburst to their differences over the county budget. He used the moment to remind attendees that Republicans have been on a losing streak in Wisconsin since 2018 and told them they used to succeed because they tolerated differences among party members and kept their disputes behind closed doors.

"We didn't put on a public display like Congress did today," he said, standing in a dining hall decorated with mounted deer heads and campaign signs.

"Perception is reality in politics," Krug continued. "Perception right now of Republicans in national politics is at a bottom."

The moment Tuesday night illustrated the internal tensions in the Republican Party that have increasingly spilled into the public, stymied members' ability to pass legislation and win elections, and, for now at least, paralyzed the House.

The Lincoln impersonator, Josh Pozdolski, said he spoke up during Krug's speech because he wants his colleague to "vote like a Republican" on the county budget. When asked about McCarthy, Pozdolski said he wants to stay focused on local government.

Most of the speakers stuck to their usual talking points, describing their party as one focused on what they deemed common-sense issues such as cutting taxes, reducing energy prices and ensuring voters have to show ID to cast ballots. They accused President Biden and Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) of causing inflation to skyrocket and warned that a new liberal majority on the Wisconsin Supreme Court could redraw political lines that have given Republicans huge majorities in the legislature. They thanked those gathered for their work and urged them to keep volunteering in a purple state where races are often won by just a percentage point or two.

The way to win is not through infighting, Krug said in an interview after his speech. He described the effort by Rep. Matt Gaetz (Fla.) and seven other Republicans to team up with Democrats to remove McCarthy as ridiculous. "It's a grade-school game," Krug said.

ELIZABETH FRANTZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

An entrance to the office suites of then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on Sept. 22. McCarthy was ousted as speaker Tuesday, an effort led by some hard-right members of his own party.

Pete Church, chairman of the Adams County Republican Party, downplayed the interruption during Krug's speech but said he has seen a surge of internal disputes among Republicans since the 2020 election. He fears the division will make it harder to keep first-term Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wis.) in office.

"What they're doing is making it very difficult on us to keep our congressman," he said, referring to Gaetz and other hard-right Republicans. "A government shutdown is not the answer. And vacating the speaker is not the answer either, because I've seen no plan for who they're going to put in."

Van Orden, like every Republican in Wisconsin's congressional delegation, voted against McCarthy's removal. Elected last year with 52 percent of the vote, Van Orden is the Democrats' top House target in Wisconsin next year. In recent weeks, Van Orden has expressed extreme frustration with the GOP splits over the speakership and funding the government. In a recent radio interview, he accused his peers on the hard right of "putting our ability to live as a free society in jeopardy for their own personal reasons."

But at Tuesday's dinner at Connell's Cedar Shack, some Republicans said they were pleased with the decision to remove McCarthy. Neal Wisinski, treasurer of the College Republicans chapter at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, said he had been skeptical of McCarthy from the start, calling him "wishy-washy."

"When you're the speaker, you need to stand for the party's values," said Wisinski, 26. "Kevin McCarthy, unfortunately, did not hold the line with the Ukraine funding a lot of the times. And because he didn't do that, his party turned on him."

Ken Gulbranson, a retired utility worker who wore a camouflage hat with former president Donald Trump's name on it in blaze orange, said he considered McCarthy a RINO, or Republican in name only. Gulbranson, 60, sees McCarthy's ouster as a chance to put in place a more conservative speaker.

"It seems like all Republicans bow down to the Democrats and what they want — except Trump, so that's what people like Trump for," he said.

Other attendees were troubled by the move against McCarthy. Steve Nelson, 69, said he didn't like that Gaetz and his allies had relied mostly on Democratic votes to remove McCarthy.

"I just don't think that they understand that this is like an ocean liner," Nelson said. "You can't do a right turn. You have to do a veer to the right and turn over time. I thought McCarthy kind of had us going in the right direction."

From the stage, the state Republican Party's chairman, Brian Schimming, said there wasn't much he could do about the fight over the speakership but suggested the dispute offered a warning of the dangers intraparty brawling can bring. Republicans in the state lost recent races for governor, attorney general and state Supreme Court in part because they could not unite after bruising primaries, he said.

"I'm not against primaries," Schimming said. "But I am against primaries where the Republicans fight Republicans harder than they fight the Democrats."

Chaos in House GOP reignites fears of possible shutdown

As search begins for next speaker, time is running out for spending deal

BY JEFF STEIN AND JACOB BOGAGE

TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

House Republicans started the process of choosing their next leader on Wednesday, but whoever they select will probably face the same political constraints that led to Kevin McCarthy's ouster.

Kevin McCarthy's ouster from the House speakership Tuesday appears to have increased the risk that the U.S. government will shut down next month, as the far-right lawmakers who toppled him demand that the GOP extract impossibly large concessions from the White House and Democratic-controlled Senate.

House Republicans on Wednesday started the process of choosing their next leader, but whoever they choose is likely to face the same political constraints that led to McCarthy's ouster. The former speaker was deposed in part over the fury that followed his decision on Saturday to extend government funding with Democratic votes. After the House did not pass several other Republican spending bills, McCarthy agreed to essentially take up a bipartisan Senate measure, jettisoning the far right's demands for hundreds of billions in budget cuts and a crackdown on immigration.

Already the chaos on the House floor is eating into the time necessary to forge a bipartisan agreement on spending. Congress passed a law Saturday night to keep the government operating for about 45 days. But now the House is in recess through this weekend, and the mess consuming the GOP will carry on at least into next week's vote on the next speaker, reducing the number of days lawmakers have to work to about 30, said Bill Hoagland, senior vice president at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a nonpartisan think tank.

"It becomes substantially harder to do a government spending deal, because the message has been sent that Republicans should not rely on Democrats to pass any bills," said Brian Riedl, a former aide to Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) who is now a policy analyst at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank. "Things can always get worse. The no-compromise fringe has been strongly empowered and essentially has a veto over House Republican policy — which can't be squared with what Democrats and the White House want."

> *"This was the message the right was trying to send: We'll do everything on our own, and we will depose you if you work with Democrats. But what are they going to do when the Senate comes back with different numbers?"*
>
> **Bill Hoagland,** senior vice president at the Bipartisan Policy Center

The eight House Republicans who voted to strip McCarthy of his speakership had a mixture of explanations for their decision, ranging from wanting a tougher line on immigration to personal frustrations with the speaker. But many of them emphasized conservative displeasure with the deal McCarthy struck with President Biden this spring to lift the U.S. borrowing limit, a deal that kept domestic spending levels largely flat rather than curbing federal budgets sharply. Given House Republicans' narrow majority, the next speaker will face immense internal pressure to abandon the agreement with Biden and seek bigger cuts — or risk incurring the wrath of the far right, as McCarthy did.

"Here's the reality: The only Republicans in America who believe that the debt limit deal was conservative are in this chamber right now," Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), the ringleader in the plot to unseat McCarthy, said on the House floor Tuesday. "Because all over America, Republicans think that when you [McCarthy] negotiated that debt limit deal, they took your lunch money."

Rep. Bob Good (R-Va.), one of the eight to vote against McCarthy, also cited the deal with Biden as evidence McCarthy had violated his agreement to use the debt ceiling to extract spending cuts.

"We need a speaker who will fight for something, anything besides just staying or becoming speaker," Good said on the House floor. "Despite all the help of the media blaming Republicans in the House, the polls showed that the public was blaming Biden and the Democrats for an imminent shutdown. If not fight now, when would we fight?"

(Polling was mixed on this question, with some surveys finding that voters would have blamed Republicans by a large margin and others with more mixed findings.)

The uncertainty over who will lead the House makes predicting how the fights over funding will play out inherently challenging. Some congressional aides say the next speaker could insist on changing the rules that empowered Gaetz to push to boot McCarthy with just one vote. That could give the next speaker more room to operate.

The next GOP speaker may avoid some of the personal animosity that characterized McCarthy's relationship with Gaetz. Many GOP leadership allies said Gaetz was more interested in picking a high-profile battle with GOP leadership than in lowering domestic discretionary spending targets. A new speaker could be freed of some of those constraints.

"The way we get through it will be the same way we've cobbled it together every year," Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) told reporters Wednesday. "We'll find a way like we always do."

Perhaps most important, no matter how angry House backbenchers are at GOP leadership, the far-right bloc simply does not have the votes to push massive spending cuts into law. McCarthy's bill on Saturday received more than 300 votes, and even Republicans in the Senate do not support the cuts demanded by the far-right House backbenchers.

"They have to do it bipartisan, just like we did here in the Senate," Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, told The Washington Post. "That's how we're getting our bills done, and in the House, that's how you have to get bills done."

The White House has already threatened to veto several spending bills covering the full 2024 fiscal year that the House has passed with sharp spending reductions.

"This was the message the right was trying to send: We'll do everything on our own, and we will depose you if you work with Democrats," said Hoagland, of the Bipartisan Policy Center. "But what are they going to do when the Senate comes back with different numbers? It doesn't work, because then you will have government shutdowns and even more chaos. It's not a strategy that makes sense."

Signs were already emerging on Capitol Hill on Wednesday that the fallout of the McCarthy drama would make it harder to secure a government funding deal.

It takes six weeks to bring an appropriations bill to the House floor, said Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (D-Conn.), the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. The lower chamber is running out of time to complete that process, a situation that worsens with each day that passes without a speaker.

That could force Congress to take up another stopgap funding bill and trigger the same fights that brought the federal government to the brink of a shutdown over the weekend.

"Every day, we lose our ability to get something done by November 17," DeLauro told The Post. "In which case, we will be looking at the same madness."

She wasn't the only lawmaker concerned about time running short.

"I know how long it takes to work appropriations bills," Sen. Cynthia M. Lummis (R-Wyo.) added, "and 45 days is not much under any circumstances. But these circumstances are unique."

On the Senate floor Wednesday morning, Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) gave voice to Democratic sentiment that House Republicans must learn they have no choice but to reach bipartisan deals across the aisle.

Around the same time, Good, one of the conservative holdouts, told Semafor that he would insist on keeping the House rule that allowed any one member to call for a vote to strip the speaker of the position.

"Whoever the House elects as speaker will not be able to ignore the realities of divided government, no matter what the hard right demands," Schumer said. "For the good of the country, I urge my Republican colleagues in the House to, once and for all, accept that reality. If not, it is my fear, deep fear, that the chaos from yesterday is just the beginning."

Mariana Alfaro contributed to this report.

I'm a FOIA expert who got official photos of Obama after the bin Laden raid

Nate Jones
REVEALING RECORDS

Few things make a journalist happier than receiving a manila envelope full of internal government records. These days, a large email attachment is pretty good, too.

I received my first envelope of documents as a college student in 2004. Using public records laws, I had requested information about a nuclear war scare from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. They sent them to me — and I was hooked. My first professional job was filing thousands more requests for historical records at the nonprofit National Security Archive.

Today, as The Washington Post's first Freedom of Information Act director, I work to ensure that our entire newsroom receives as many of those envelopes and email attachments as possible. Those documents have helped us publish stories that have exposed government waste and wrongdoing, and led to congressional hearings and new laws. Successful requests take strategy, creativity and a tenacity for overcoming bureaucratic resistance. Now, I'm writing a periodic column about how I do it.

The federal Freedom of Information Act is one of a reporter's most powerful tools. Commonly known as FOIA, this law requires federal agencies to release records to the public upon request — unless the records are exempt for privacy, national security or other reasons. Each state also has its own version of the federal law that applies to state and local governments. When agencies refuse to produce the records, the laws allow those making the requests to sue.

Unfortunately, The Post has had to turn to the courts to force state and federal agencies to follow FOIA laws. As a newly barred attorney, I research the chances of succeeding in a lawsuit, then work with The Post's legal counsel and outside lawyers to file a suit.

Generally, The Post only sues when we believe we can make a strong case. When we do prevail, the agencies often have to pay our attorneys' fees. That is a cherry on top of any records the agencies are ordered to produce. We've been pretty successful at that, which I'll tell you about in a future column.

More often, we are able to use public records laws to obtain documents without going to court. After Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011, many people saw the famous photo of President Barack Obama and his aides tensely watching the raid on bin Laden's compound, one of just nine photos taken by the White House photographer that day and released on the official Flickr page. But I wanted to see what else was photographed that day, including pictures that might counter the official White House narrative. As I watched coverage of bin Laden's death, I was already drafting records requests in my head — even though I knew it would be a while before I could file them.

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA/COURTESY OF THE BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

President Barack Obama holds a printed-out meme while sitting in the Oval Office with Chief of Staff Bill Daley the day after the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May 2011.

The Freedom of Information Act doesn't apply to records of presidents still in office. It might never have been applied to presidents at all, if it weren't for the 1970s Watergate scandal and President Richard M. Nixon. Nixon refused to surrender White House records to a special prosecutor and resigned from office in 1974. In response, Congress eventually passed the Presidential Records Act, which requires presidents to preserve official records and allows the public to request them five years after they leave office.

At the time of the bin Laden raid, Obama was running for reelection. If he won, I would have to wait until 2017 to start the five-year clock to request his presidential records. So I marked my calendar.

On Jan. 20, 2022, five years to the day after Obama left office, I filed a slew of requests — including one for all official White House photographs taken the day bin Laden was killed.

After a year, the National Archives processed the request and provided a 161-page PDF of thumbnails and file names for all White House photographs taken between May 1 and 3, 2011. I then requested and received time-stamped, high-resolution copies of some of the photographs from the library, which The Post used to reconstruct the day.

In all, my FOIA requests led to the release of over 900 White House photos. They revealed never-before-seen moments, including handshakes and hugs after the death of bin Laden — even quite a bit of laughter — as well as Obama's calls to former U.S. presidents and other heads of state to share the news.

These photographs offered a window into the White House mood at the time. Some stood in contrast to Obama's stoic speech the night of bin Laden's death and the president's admonition not to "spike the football" by publicizing photographs of the deceased terrorist. A photograph of Obama during the President's Daily Brief the day after the raid captured him laughing at a printed meme of himself. It said: "Sorry it took so long to get you a copy of my birth certificate. I was too busy killing Osama bin Laden."

These photographs — like all internal government records — are powerful because they help reveal what actually happened within our government, not just the view officials want to present.

There are still more records from this historic day that remain hidden. The Obama Presidential Library cited "national security classified information" to withhold 307 other photos from The Post and the public. I've appealed, of course.

These manila envelopes and email attachments do not always come easily. Post reporters are constantly thinking and inquiring about the government documents behind public statements and official actions. I've helped them file requests for records in the federal government and every U.S. state, district and territory. Without public records laws, they would not be able to tear open the envelopes, download the attachments and share the stories of the documents within.

Do you have a question, comment or FOIA idea? Send an email to: *RevealingRecords@washpost.com*.

With border crossings setting records, U.S. will add to wall

BORDER FROM **A1**

sued a statement Thursday acknowledging the deal while blaming the exodus of its citizens on U.S. policies it denounced as a "direct consequence of coercive unilateral measures and the blockade of our economy."

More than 7 million Venezuelans have left their nation over the past decade, and many of those making the dangerous trek through Panama's Darien jungle en route to the United States have been living in Colombia, Ecuador and other nations in the region. They now risk a return to a country roiled by food shortages, power blackouts and organized crime.

The Department of Homeland Security said the decision to resume Venezuela deportations was "consistent with the Administration's efforts to implement a strategy of humane, safe, and orderly enforcement of our immigration laws and to process individuals in a fair and fast manner."

The DHS said those efforts include a major expansion of legal opportunities for Venezuelans to enter the United States that has allowed nearly 70,000 to arrive this year through a program known as humanitarian parole process, or after making an appointment at the southern border using a mobile application.

The announcement followed a separate notice from Biden officials who said they will bypass environmental and conservation laws for the first time to fast-track barrier construction along the southern border, citing an "acute and immediate" need to stop soaring numbers of migrants crossing illegally in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

That announcement, published in the Federal Register,

MICHAEL ROBINSON CHÁVEZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

Migrants from Venezuela pause along the U.S. border wall while looking for a place to cross in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, on Sept. 19. Nearly half a million Venezuelans have crossed the border since 2020.

amounted to a shift for Biden, who rebuked his predecessor's pet project by vowing as he ran for office that he would not build "another foot of wall." Biden halted construction on Inauguration Day in January 2021.

Asked by reporters at the White House on Thursday about his administration's plans, the president said he did not believe the barriers were effective but construction had to move forward because Congress already appropriated the money.

"I can't stop that," Biden said, without elaborating. He took no further questions.

The Federal Register notice issued by the DHS said the administration faces an overwhelming increase in illegal border entries, requiring new barriers whose construction cannot be delayed by U.S. environmental laws and other safeguards.

"There is presently an acute and immediate need to construct physical barriers and roads in the vicinity of the border of the United States in order to prevent unlawful entries," said the notice, signed by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Mayorkas said the administration will waive more than two dozen laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

His notice described plans for new segments of fencing at 10 locations in the Rio Grande Valley, where U.S. agents made nearly 245,000 border arrests during the 2023 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

Biden's pause on construction in January 2021 left the $11 billion wall — one of the most expensive federal infrastructure projects in U.S. history — with dozens of gaps and piles of unused steel bollards lying around in the desert.

Republican lawmakers have been trying to force the administration to resume construction on the roughly 250 additional miles of barriers called for in the Trump plan. President Donald Trump added about 450 miles of barriers during his term.

Biden's Inauguration Day order that halted construction allowed for exceptions to "avert immediate physical dangers." Mayorkas later authorized crews to close some unfinished areas using money previously authorized by Congress, citing concerns such as site safety, erosion prevention and a need to shore up the structural integrity of the barriers.

Asked about the need for the waivers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials took an expansive view of the safety exception, saying the protection of U.S. agents, migrants and border communities fits within the scope of Biden's January 2021 order.

CBP officials said the new segments they plan to build will minimize environmental impacts by using a movable "Jersey barrier" foundation, in contrast to existing segments of the barriers that are anchored in concrete.

"CBP remains committed to protecting the nation's cultural and natural resources and will implement sound environmental practices as part of the project covered by this waiver," CBP spokesperson Erin Waters said in a statement.

Last month, Border Patrol agents made nearly 219,000 arrests along the southern border, the highest monthly tally in 2023, according to preliminary CBP data obtained by The Washington Post. The Rio Grande Valley was CBP's second-busiest sector in September, after Arizona's Tucson sector, the data shows.

U.S. agents have made more than 6 million arrests along the southern border during the past three years, the busiest span in the 100-year history of the Border Patrol.

Wildlife advocates who applauded Biden's construction freeze in 2021 said they were dismayed to see his administration adding more miles of steel barriers, which block the migratory routes of larger mammals.

"It's disheartening to see President Biden stoop to this level, casting aside our nation's bedrock environmental laws to build ineffective wildlife-killing border walls," Laiken Jordahl, Southwest conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

The area where the new segments will be added, Starr County, "is home to some of the most spectacular and biologically important habitat left in Texas, and now bulldozers are preparing to rip right through it," Jordahl said. "This is a horrific step backwards for the borderlands."

The border wall's effectiveness at preventing illegal crossings remains a point of contention. Smuggling organizations in Mexico have sawed through its steel bars thousands of times, requiring millions of dollars in repairs. Smugglers also regularly deploy cheap ladders to bring migrants over the top, lowering them down the other side with ropes.

Mayorkas issued a separate statement saying the barrier extension did not amount to a policy change.

"From day one, this Administration has made clear that a border wall is not the answer," Mayorkas said. "That remains our position and our position has never wavered. The language in the Federal Register notice is being taken out of context and it does not signify any change in policy whatsoever."

Samantha Schmidt in Bogotá, Colombia, contributed to this report.

Trump seeks dismissal of D.C. case, saying he's immune to prosecution

BY DEVLIN BARRETT AND PERRY STEIN

Lawyers for former president Donald Trump urged a federal judge Thursday to toss out the indictment against him for allegedly conspiring to block the results of the 2020 election, arguing that as president at the time, he was acting within the legal boundaries "at the heart of our system of government."

Trump lawyers John Lauro and Todd Blanche, in a 46-page filing, argue that Trump is immune to prosecution for the acts cited in the indictment filed by special counsel Jack Smith — a legal claim they have been making since the indictment was filed in August.

"As the Constitution, the Supreme Court, and hundreds of years of history and tradition all make clear, the President's motivations are not for the prosecution or this Court to decide. Rather, where, as here, the President's actions are within the ambit of his office, he is absolutely immune from prosecution," the filing argues.

Trump denies the charges leveled in the indictment — that he conspired to obstruct Joe Biden's 2020 victory in the presidential election, and also conspired against Americans' right to vote and have those votes counted. The defense argument for dismissal, however, is not about whether Trump did what prosecutors accuse him of doing, but rather whether he is immune from prosecution because he was president at the time.

In the filing, Trump's attorneys detail some of the same post-election interactions that prosecutors note in the indictment, including meetings and communications with Justice Department officials.

But in their telling, if Trump participated in these meetings he was acting within the bounds of his presidency — not committing crimes as prosecutors allege.

In their motion, the lawyers argue that the courts have long shielded U.S. presidents from lawsuits over actions taken while they were serving in that position — and say the same principle should extend to criminal prosecutions.

The lawyers add, however, that the Supreme Court has not weighed in on this issue of whether or when a president is immune to criminal charges — suggesting it could be a legal debate taken up not just by the trial judge, Tanya Chutkan, but an appeals court or the highest court in the land.

"No court has addressed whether such Presidential immunity includes immunity from criminal prosecution for the President's official act," the lawyers wrote. They argued that the proper venue to decide the guilt or innocence of a president is impeachment in the Congress. Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives for actions surrounding Jan. 6 but ultimately acquitted by the Senate.

The Justice Department's four-count indictment charges that Trump's actions after he lost the 2020 election amounted to a criminal conspiracy to remain in power. It is one of four felony prosecutions Trump is facing, including a state trial in Georgia that involves similar allegations of trying to obstruct the election results in that state; a federal indictment in Florida over Trump's alleged hoarding of classified documents after leaving the White House and obstruction of government efforts to retrieve the information; and a state-level case in New York in which Trump is accused of falsifying business records in connection with a hush money payment made during the 2016 election campaign.

Trump's lawyers in the New York case also filed a dismissal motion Thursday.

Blanche, who is representing Trump in both cases, and attorney Susan Necheles argued the case brought by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg was an unjust effort that relied on novel legal theories and a problematic witness. The probe began in 2019 and did not yield an indictment until March, which Blanche and Necheles said constitutes a violation of Trump's due process rights.

In the D.C. motion to dismiss, Blanche and Lauro wrote that alleging the president acted illegally does not necessarily mean that he acted beyond "the outer perimeter" of his job, citing a Supreme Court case from the Nixon era. They argued that if Trump was not immune to prosecution for his actions, a president theoretically could be subjected to a trial every time someone alleged he was acting illegally.

Any decision by Chutkan is likely to come after a counterargument from prosecutors, and possibly a hearing on the matter.

Legal experts have said that the issue of presidential immunity is one that the higher courts may take up before Trump goes on trial — a rare exception to general court practice, which says most appeals issues must wait until after a verdict.

Trump's attorney suggested that they may file additional pretrial motions in coming days. Chutkan has said all such motions must be filed by Monday evening.

"Other fatal deficiencies in the indictment will be addressed in future motion(s) and proceeding(s)," the filing states.

Shayna Jacobs in New York contributed to this report.

Scientists discover how several dozen genes might contribute to autism

BY MARK JOHNSON

Using a host of high-tech tools to simulate brain development in a lab dish, Stanford University researchers have discovered several dozen genes that interfere with crucial steps in the process and may lead to autism, a spectrum of disorders that affects about one in every 36 Americans, impairing their ability to communicate and interact with others.

The results of a decade of work, the findings published in the journal Nature may one day pave the way for scientists to design treatments that allow these phases of brain development to proceed unimpaired.

The study delves into a 20-year-old theory that suggests one cause of autism may be a disruption of the delicate balance between two types of nerve cells found in the brain's cerebral cortex, the area responsible for higher-level processes such as thought, emotion, decision-making and language.

Some nerve cells in this region of the brain excite other nerve cells, encouraging them to fire; other cells, called interneurons, do the opposite. Too much excitation can impair focus in the brain and cause epilepsy, a seizure disorder that is more common in people with autism than in the general population. Scientists therefore believe a proper balance requires more of the inhibiting interneurons.

In the developing fetus, these nerve cells start out deep in the brain in a region called the subpallium, then migrate slowly to the cerebral cortex. The process begins mid-gestation and ends in the infant's second year of life, said Sergiu Pasca, a Stanford University professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences who led the study.

Pasca's team, which included researchers from the University of California at San Francisco and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, tested 425 genes that have been linked to neurodevelopmental disorders to determine which ones interfere with the generation and migration of interneurons. Genes linked to autism were among those identified in the study.

"What's really cool about this paper is that autism is a collection of different behaviors, but we don't have [an] understanding of how those behaviors are connected to differences in the brain," said James McPartland, a professor of child psychiatry and psychology at the Yale School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study.

The new work advances research into autism by "beginning to create a fundamental understanding of the building blocks of brain development," he said.

A new way to screen for autism genes

For ethical reasons, it is not possible to view developmental processes as they take place inside a fetal brain.

Often, scientists can instead learn the role an individual gene plays by observing what happens when that gene is knocked out of cells in a lab dish. But knocking out 425 genes one by one is time-consuming.

For their study, Pasca and his colleagues used a technique they developed six years ago that allowed them to test all 425 genes at once. They engineered the cells so that only those nerve cells that inhibit others from firing would cast a green glow. They also used the gene-editing system CRISPR to create different cells, each missing one of the 425 genes.

The scientists created clumps of cells that model the structures and functions of the brain's subpallium and cerebral cortex. Then they placed the two different clumps beside each other in a lab dish.

"We discovered that if you put them together in close proximity, they'll fuse immediately," Pasca said. "And the cells know exactly what to do … and they invade the cortex exactly as they would in people."

This was all the more remarkable because in living brains, the region of the subpallium that makes interneurons is not right next to the cerebral cortex, but is inches away, Pasca said.

Pasca and his colleagues allowed time for interneurons to form and migrate to the cerebral cortex. Then they examined the genetic profiles of the various cells. This allowed them to hunt for the genes that caused two defects: the failure to generate interneurons and the failure of interneurons to journey into the cerebral cortex.

They found 13 genes whose absence prevented interneurons from forming. They identified another 33 genes that, when missing, prevented interneurons from traveling to the cerebral cortex. All told, 46 genes — 11 percent of the 425 linked to neurodevelopmental disorders — appeared to affect the nerve cells that inhibit their neighbors, leading to an imbalance.

The scientists learned that one of the genes crucial to the migration of interneurons, LNPK, has been linked to seizure disorders. This would support the idea that seizures result from too much excitation of neurons and too little inhibition.

Using the fused clumps of cells, the researchers "performed by far the largest screen for autism and [neurodevelopmental disorder] genes," Guo-li Ming, a professor in the departments of neuroscience and psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, wrote in an email commenting on the study.

Ming, who was not involved in the project, described it as a "tour-de-force" that may one day lead researchers to develop treatments for autism and other disorders — therapies based on the genetic profile of an individual patient.

The autism services cliff

Experts stressed that autism is not one disease, but a group of disorders. The neuron imbalance is only one of multiple possible causes.

Many people with autism, for example, have defects of the microglia, cells that regulate brain development, injury repair and maintenance of the networks that process information.

And genes alone cannot account for autism, said Yale's McPartland. "It's complicated, and it's fascinating. You can have [autism in] identical twins and they almost always will both have autism. But not always."

Jennifer Singh, an autism expert and associate professor in the school of history and sociology at Georgia Institute of Technology, said too much money has been poured into searching for the genetic underpinnings of autism spectrum disorder. Singh pointed to a 2018 report by a federal advisory committee, which found that 60 percent of the funding for autism research addressed the biology and risk factors, but only 2 percent dealt with "life span issues" for people living with the spectrum of disorders.

"This hyper focus and massive investment obscures the real issues people with autism and their families face," Singh wrote in an email. She cited the "autism services cliff," which occurs when people with autism can no longer attend public school. "Services that would be useful for autistic adults do not exist or are no longer available," she said.

Pasca said that it's important to study "the natural history of the disease. But we also need to understand the biological basis if we want to develop effective [treatments]."

Gambling profits come with pitfalls the NFL had feared

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID ROBBINS/THE WASHINGTON POST

GAMBLING FROM A1

attempted to buy airtime for a Super Bowl commercial. The league refused, a fortification of the barricade it had erected between itself and gambling. "The NFL has a long-standing policy that prohibits the acceptance of any message that makes reference to or mention of sports betting," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy explained at the time.

But in the five years since the federal ban on sports betting fell and states widely legalized it, the NFL has changed with America at dizzying speed. Gambling has driven the NFL's popularity since its earliest days, but the league always repelled any sanctioned connection. It has now wrapped its arms around sports wagering, holding dollars in both fists. The league has three official sports betting partners. Sportsbooks operate next to — or, in the case of the Washington Commanders, inside — stadiums. This year's Super Bowl will be played in a city whose existence the league once refused to acknowledge during Super Bowl commercial breaks.

In 2022, Carolyn Goodman watched the NFL draft with her husband. They saw Goodell standing on a stage adjacent to the Strip. The NFL had already awarded Super Bowl LVIII to Las Vegas. It would be played in Allegiant Stadium, the home of the Raiders since 2020. The firewall between league and city, between the NFL and gambling, had been razed.

"It's an amazing thing when we were at the draft, to see him onstage and just thinking, 'Oh, my gosh, and here we were, this poor little city couldn't even get an advertisement up during the Super Bowl,' " Carolyn Goodman said. "Now look. Here we are. We've got it coming."

While the league reaps the spoils of revenue from its partnerships with gambling companies, it also has confronted the pitfalls it once feared, from the potential addiction and exploitation of fans to the erosion of trust in the outcome of games. Today, NFL players are strictly forbidden from betting on the NFL or from gambling of any kind while at team facilities — including team buses and planes — or on team business. When a team stays overnight on a road trip, its players cannot visit casinos in that city.

The NFL has suspended 10 players who violated league rules since 2021, but it openly admits the lure of a business opportunity outweighs the risks of damaging its competitive integrity.

"It's one of the reasons we oppose legalized sports betting because of the risk to the integrity of the game," Commissioner Roger Goodell said in an NBC interview before the 2023 season's opening game. "And so that's always going to be our number one priority. When the Supreme Court overruled that, we have to be in that space."

The NFL rushed into the space more tentatively than other sports leagues. Washington Wizards and Capitals owner Ted Leonsis once said gambling "kind of saved sports short term" after the coronavirus pandemic rearranged the business landscape. These days, many MLB, NHL and NBA broadcasts can feel like hours-long gambling advertisements.

The NFL's colossal television rights contract, which immunizes the league's owners from the regional sports network crises that other leagues face, has enabled it not to be reliant on sports gambling. The league caters its game broadcasts to nongamblers, understanding bettors can seek out alternative content and trying not to turn away fans. It discourages broadcast partners from openly discussing betting lines during games, although some pregame segments focus explicitly on point spreads and prop bets. The league allows networks to sell a maximum of six commercials per game to sports betting companies.

"The NFL has approached these topics at a more deliberate pace," said Chris Grove, an emeritus partner at gambling consulting firm Eilers & Krejcik. "The NFL just took the position of: 'We are the center of gravity when it comes to the intersection of professional sports. We generate the most interest, the most volume, the most revenue. We are the crown jewels. Let's let the rest of the market settle. We'll get a sense of where the value is, where the value isn't, and we're not going to surrender any leverage by doing so. In fact, we'll probably increase leverage by doing so.' The NFL definitely moved at its own pace and definitely waited for the rest of the landscape to settle."

Still, sports gambling has transformed the NFL's sponsorship revenue. In 2018, the first year the league allowed teams to strike marketing deals with gambling companies, it made $35 million from gambling-related sponsors, from tribal casinos to fantasy football, according to data compiled by research firm SponsorUnited. The NFL now makes $132 million per year from gambling-related sponsorships, "which is the equivalent of, like, adding two to three NFL teams and their sponsorship revenues just from this one category," SponsorUnited CEO Bob Lynch said.

Gambling once constituted 2.3 percent of the NFL's sponsorship dollars, Lynch said, and it now constitutes roughly three times that. Those figures do not take into account intangible benefits such as increased interest and customer data that sports betting companies can share with the league.

"They've been able to unlock a lot of value beyond the actual money coming in," Lynch said. "It's been like a unicorn category that's been sustainable for a pretty long period of time."

An NFL fan cannot attend a game or watch one on television without at least a mild bombardment of gambling advertisements, and the league must grapple with how much it risks exploiting fans by accepting that ad revenue. Between 2018 and 2021, National Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director Keith Whyte said, Americans 18 and older experienced a 30 percent increase in risk for problem gambling.

"The NFL, their embrace of legalized sports betting, has certainly led to a massive explosion in the amount of sports betting advertising that reaches not just adults where sports betting is legal, it reaches a lot of adults where sports betting is not legal," Whyte said. "And it reaches a lot of kids and adolescents. We think there's been a big increase in risk, and obviously the NFL is part of that."

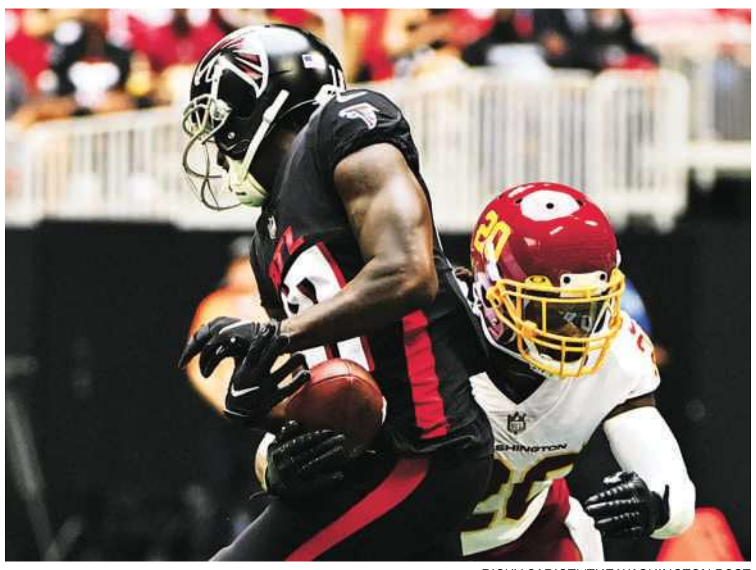
Since the legalization of sports betting, the NFL has become the National Council on Problem Gambling's largest donor. The NFL committed $6.2 million over three years, Whyte said, while other leagues have contributed roughly $50,000 per year. The NBA, as one example, paid $6,000. The NFL "recognized they needed to balance both sides of the equation — costs and benefits of their support for expanded gambling," Whyte said.

When the NFL still publicly opposed gambling, Goodell repeatedly stated the league's primary objection was how betting could affect the perceived integrity of games. If a player dropped a few passes, he once argued, fans might wonder whether he was shaving points.

Never mind that the problem could have existed just as easily with illegal gambling — or that the league had been confronting it for decades. In 1963, the NFL suspended Detroit Lions defensive tackle Alex Karras and Green Bay Packers running back Paul Hornung for betting on NFL games and associating with gamblers and people the Detroit police described as "known hoodlums." During that same episode, the league fined five other Lions $2,000 each for betting on the NFL championship game. (They won $50 apiece by picking the Packers over the Giants, resulting in a net loss of about $1,950.)

The last surviving player fined during that incident is Hall of Fame linebacker Joe Schmidt. He is 91 and lives in an assisted-living facility in Florida. He is still sharp in conversation, but age and a career of hard hits have eroded his memory. He did not recall details of his punishment, but he could place in context a problem the NFL still has: how to police players' sports betting.

"It's part pastime and part of people's enjoyment," Schmidt said. "I think what they're worried about is ballplayers throwing games and stuff. I don't know how the hell that happens or if it does happen how they stop that."


RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

The NFL suspended wide receiver Calvin Ridley after regulators in Florida tracked him making a bet on his phone when he played for the Atlanta Falcons. He now plays for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

For professional athletes, gambling on their sport has been a cardinal sin for more than a century. But for most of that time, athletes did not have the option to carry a sportsbook around in their pockets. The NFL not only has to ward off known hoodlums, it must police cellphone apps that are promoted during breaks of its games.

The technology in some ways protects the league. Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Calvin Ridley, then with the Atlanta Falcons, was suspended after regulators in Florida tracked him making a bet on his phone and notified Genius Sports, the firm that oversees gambling integrity for the NFL. But it also means players in states where gambling is legal have constant access to wagering.

NFL officials visited every training camp over the summer to explain the rules to players and warn them about the penalties. The league views them as straightforward and easy to follow. Teams have emphasized the rules on their own, wary of losing a key player out of the blue.

Cincinnati Bengals Coach Zac Taylor addressed his team directly each time an NFL player's suspension surfaced. He strongly recommended his players not bet at all — on anything, anywhere — summarizing his message as: "You're going to have plenty of time after football to have all the fun you want to have and gamble."

"You can't tell grown men what to do when they're at their own home and it is legal for them to do other things," Taylor said. "But our message has been: 'It's just not worth it. Why even toe the line?' "

Some felt the NFL's rules are out of step with societal shifts — and, with backing from the NFL Players Association, pushed the NFL to change its policy. Last month, Goodell sent a memo to players explaining changes that made penalties for betting on the NFL harsher and punishment for betting on other sports at team facilities or on road trips more lenient. A player can now receive lifetime banishment for fixing a game, and first-time offenders for betting at a facility now receive two-game suspensions instead of six.

"The NFL is strongly committed to protecting the integrity of our game," Goodell wrote in the memo. "As NFL players, you have a special responsibility to yourself and your legacy, your club and teammates, the fans, and the game to ensure that it is always played fairly, honestly, and to the best of your ability. This includes taking all appropriate steps to safeguard our game against possible gambling-related risks that can undermine the confidence and trust of our fans and colleagues in America's greatest game."

The NFL has allowed players to return after suspensions. Ridley, sidelined for all of 2022, became the Jaguars' top wide receiver instantly once this season began. Some believe it is imperative for the league to provide rehabilitation, not just punishment, for players who break the rules.

"It's critical that NFL players who may have gambling problems have a safe harbor to seek help," Whyte said. "There's a big difference between someone who is breaking a rule because they're unconcerned and trying to hide their behavior and someone who is doing it because they have the mental health problem of gambling disorder."

The issues raised by legalized gambling will grow only thornier. Betting is less something adjacent to the sport than an activity interspersed with the game, a web laid over the entire enterprise. It has made the NFL wealthier, but it also promises to provide more controversy.

Gambling is not going away — and it has always been here. Sixty years ago, Schmidt found himself in the middle of a scandal. He believed Commissioner Pete Rozelle would have been justified had he wagered consistently on NFL games. But he insisted he only bet on one game he had no role in. Given his surroundings, he is not sure he deserved punishment.

"I don't know," Schmidt said. "America, if you took away gambling, probably all the people would have a fit."

THE WORLD

RIZWAN TABASSUM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Afghans board a bus from Karachi, Pakistan, to Afghanistan on Sept. 21. Pakistan's government has announced a deadline of the end of October for the estimated 1.7 million Afghans illegally in the country to leave voluntarily, after which it says it will deport them.

Pakistan turns on Afghan refugees

Threatens deportations amid frustration with Taliban, financial strain

BY RICK NOACK

SAIYNA BASHIR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Afghan journalist Taher Sadeed was detained in Islamabad for overstaying his visa.

SAIYNA BASHIR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Former prosecutor Safia Arify recently arrived in Islamabad with her three children.

KARACHI, PAKISTAN — There hasn't been a single day over the past two years when Mohammad Abed Andarabi felt at ease. A former prosecutor for the U.S.-backed Afghan government that was toppled by the Taliban, he says he has changed hideouts four times in recent months, at one point only narrowly escaping arrest.

Andarabi isn't running from the Taliban, whose fighters he once helped to put behind bars, but from police in Pakistan — the country where he sought refuge almost two years ago. His visa has expired and, amid a widening crackdown on Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he fears that he, his wife and his five children will be jailed or even sent back to Kabul.

After Pakistan's caretaker government last week abruptly agreed to deport the 1.7 million Afghans who are estimated to live in the country illegally, the Interior Ministry on Tuesday announced a 28-day deadline for them to leave voluntarily, promising a "reward" to anyone who shares information on their whereabouts starting in November. While undocumented refugees from other countries could also be affected, the decision appeared to be primarily linked to growing Pakistani frustration with the Taliban and with the economic burden of hosting millions of Afghans.

This would be one of the largest deportation drives in Pakistan's history. In an interview, Abbas Khan, Pakistan's chief commissioner for Afghan refugees, said the government will prioritize the deportation of criminals and seek to avoid "blind action."

But exiled critics of the Taliban fear they might get caught up in the crackdown. The U.N. refugee agency on Monday urged the Pakistani government to prevent the deportation of Afghan refugees "fleeing persecution."

When the Taliban seized power two years ago, there may have already been over 2 million Afghans living in Pakistan. Many had fled war and hardship years earlier. The Taliban takeover prompted a new influx of more than 600,000 refugees into Pakistan, according to government statistics. Pakistani officials say few other countries would have absorbed so many or shown goodwill for so long.

Many of the refugees have settled in the southern city of Karachi, which was once known as the "city of lights" but now struggles to keep them on, as inflation and surging electricity burden a population that has surged to over 20 million people.

Over the past year, Pakistan's leadership — which under former prime minister Imran Khan stood largely alone in arguing that the world should give the Taliban a chance — has begun to embrace a very different message. Pakistani officials are now leveling bitter accusations against the Taliban, blaming it for tolerating the presence of Islamist militants who have been behind a string of deadly attacks inside Pakistan.

While some Afghan refugees hoped that Pakistan might finally see them as like-minded allies, they now find they're instead seen as an extension of the problem. Old resentments are gaining new momentum amid a cratering economy, which is sowing division and desperation. In public discourse, Afghans are increasingly viewed as potential terrorists, criminals who traffic drugs, or illegal workers who steal jobs.

Citing such "social evils," Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar recently said his country has "suffered profoundly" from tolerating undocumented refugees.

In an interview, Asif Durrani, Pakistan's special envoy for Afghanistan, said the United States and other countries are partly to blame. Many refugees fearing persecution came to Pakistan after being promised resettlement elsewhere and were only meant to be "here as transit passengers." But most are still waiting, he said.

The warning signs

Although the Taliban decreed a general amnesty for former officials in the U.S.-backed government, many Afghan refugees have reason to be concerned about a forced return to their home country, human rights observers say. The United Nations has documented over 200 extrajudicial killings of former Afghan officials and members of the armed forces since the takeover in 2021. The Taliban government rejects those figures.

The Taliban is now seeking to present itself in a better light. In Karachi, where most arrests of Afghans have been documented to date, the Taliban's top diplomat is busy these days serving visitors tea and explaining the virtues of forgiveness. The Afghan Consulate in this port city has also hired a lawyer to represent Afghans who are in Pakistani prison for migration infractions, including those who fled Afghanistan because they feared life under Taliban rule.

"We're absolutely helping Afghans who are in a fight with our Islamic emirate," Abdul Jabbar Takhari, the Taliban's acting consul general in Karachi, said in an interview. "The supreme leader said we should forgive."

Most Afghan political dissidents who initially fled to Karachi after the Taliban takeover spotted the warning signs early enough. They moved months ago to settle in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, a calmer city that appeared to provide a degree of safety from arrest and a better chance of resettlement in Europe or the United States.

But the arrests of those who stayed behind in Karachi, mostly laborers without savings, are a warning of what might happen elsewhere in the country, said Moniza Kakar, a lawyer who represents Afghan refugees in Karachi. Pakistani authorities in Karachi arrested at least 4,000 Afghans and deported more than 2,500 of them from the city over the past 15 months, according to lawyers who represented them.

Growing desperation

Kakar looked tired as she headed out of central Karachi on the city's congested highways on a recent afternoon. "These days, people call me at 4 a.m. to seek help," she said.

Kakar, who works pro bono, said she would not accept money from the Taliban-led government for her work. Among the most troubling cases she deals with are girls and young women who came to Pakistan in hopes of being able to resume their studies or go to school, she said.

"The other day, a 17- or 18-year-old girl said, 'Don't deport me; I want to become a doctor,'" Kakar recalled. But Kakar couldn't help her. The girl was sent back, she said.

When Kakar arrived in an Afghan migrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Karachi, she was swarmed by Afghans desperate to obtain one of her business cards. The neighborhood's makeshift Afghan bistro flies Pakistan's white-and-green crescent moon flag at its entrance, but inside, few Afghans still identify with the country.

Decades ago, the influx of Afghans was encouraged by the Pakistani leadership, with Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq allowing millions of Afghans to stay in the country from the late 1970s. Some Afghans in Karachi arrived on travel documents issued in the 1980s by the Soviet Union-backed Afghan government; others were born in the city but never received Pakistani citizenship.

Their presence soon altered places like Karachi and, as Pakistan's leadership eventually realized, exacerbated the bitter competition for housing and work. By the late 1980s, Karachi struggled to rein in repeated outbreaks of ethnic riots.

Hajj Mohammad Jan, a 58-year-old Afghan from Kunduz, remembers that period more vividly than his home country — he arrived in Pakistan when he was 13. He and others blame the current tensions on Pakistani governments that provided them with few ways to integrate into Pakistani society, leaving their neighborhoods without schools and other facilities.

"They should finally give us citizenship," he said.

The latest crackdown suggests that's unlikely to happen. Ahmad Jan, a 30-year-old from Afghanistan's Mazar-e Sharif, told Kakar that police "stole" his brother's registration card, his phone and the money he was carrying. Bystanders weighed in with similar accounts, saying many of them have had to pay bribes to avoid arrest.

Fears of scapegoating

Irfan Bahadur, a senior Karachi police official, denied that any bribes were paid. In his view, police in Karachi are now the last line of defense against what the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has unleashed.

Local officials blame Afghan refugees for a wave of cheap crystal meth that's wreaking havoc not only in Karachi but across the country. Profits are smuggled back to Afghanistan in stacks of U.S. dollars, destabilizing the Pakistani rupee, officials say.

But lawyers and economists say that's only part of the story and that Pakistan won't overcome its chronic problems unless its leadership takes responsibility. "If you're looking for the main reasons for Pakistan's severe economic stress, you have to look internally," said Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center.

With Pakistan gearing up for elections early next year, Afghan refugees suspect the scapegoating will get worse. "We shouldn't be harassed for something that we're not responsible for," said Taher Sadeed, an Afghan journalist who was detained in Islamabad for overstaying his visa this year but eventually released.

Safia Arify, 32, who only just arrived in Islamabad with her children, worries that she came to Pakistan at the wrong time. Until recently, she was among the last participants in women's protests against the Taliban in Kabul. When she was identified by Afghan officials, she decided to flee.

But shortly after her medical visa expired last month, Pakistani police raided her neighborhood. She managed to lock the heavy iron gate just in time.

"God forbid that I'm deported," Arify said.

DIGEST

BRAZIL

Three physicians shot to death, 1 injured

Three orthopedic physicians were shot and killed early Thursday morning at a beachside kiosk in an upscale part of Rio de Janeiro in what authorities are calling a targeted execution that may have been politically motivated.

Just before 1 a.m., according to a surveillance video published by local media, several men raced out of a white SUV and shot the three doctors who were in town for a conference held by the Minimally Invasive Foot Ankle Society. A fourth doctor, an orthopedic surgeon, was shot but survived. No arrests have been made.

Authorities have neither announced a motive for the killings nor any suspects. They will investigate whether the killings were politically motivated, they said.

One of the slain doctors, Diego Ralf Bomfim, 35, was from a prominent leftist family. The orthopedic surgeon was the brother of federal congresswoman Sâmia Bomfim, a progressive politician who announced last year that she received death threats. The doctor was also the brother-in-law of congressman Glauber Braga. Both politicians belong to the Socialism and Liberty Party.

Also killed were Marcos de Andrade Corsato, 62, and Perseu Ribeiro Almeida, 33. Daniel Sonnewend Proença, 33, was injured in the shooting and reported to be in stable condition.

— Terrence McCoy, Marina Dias

BRITAIN

Man who attempted to kill queen sentenced

A Star Wars-obsessed man who was encouraged by a chatbot "girlfriend" to slay Queen Elizabeth II was sentenced Thursday to nine years in prison for taking his plot to Windsor Castle, where he scaled the walls and was caught with a loaded crossbow on Christmas Day 2021.

Jaswant Singh Chail said that as a Sikh Indian, he wanted to kill the queen to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, when British troops opened fire on thousands of Indians gathered in Amritsar and killed as many as 1,500, a judge said. Chail said that he had shared his plan only with the artificial-intelligence "girlfriend" he named Sarai.

Justice Nicholas Hilliard said the seriousness of the crimes required Chail to go to prison but that he was psychotic and must be returned to a secure psychiatric treatment center and if well enough will serve the rest of his sentence in prison.

Chail, 21, pleaded guilty in February in London's Central Criminal Court to violating the Treason Act by having a loaded crossbow and intending to use it to injure the queen, possessing an offensive weapon and making threats to kill.

— Associated Press

INDIA

NewsClick site editor, administrator arrested

Police in New Delhi have arrested the editor of a news website and one of its administrators after raiding the homes of journalists working for the site, which has been critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist-led government.

NewsClick founder and editor Prabir Purkayastha and human resources chief Amit Chakravarty were arrested late Tuesday. Earlier, some journalists associated with the site were detained and had their digital devices seized during extensive raids that were part of an investigation into whether the news outlet had received funds from China. NewsClick denied any financial misconduct.

Suman Nalwa, a police spokesperson, said the arrests were made under an anti-terrorism law. It has been used by the government to jail activists, journalists and Modi's critics. NewsClick is seen as a rare Indian news outlet willing to criticize Modi.

On Wednesday, hundreds of journalists and activists in New Delhi protested the raids on NewsClick and the crackdown on independent media.

— Associated Press

Scotland approves extradition of American: The Scottish government said Thursday it had approved the extradition to the United States of a U.S. man accused of rape who allegedly faked his own death. U.S. prosecutors say Nicholas Rossi, linked to rape and sexual assault allegations in Utah, fled the United States and tried to fake his death in 2020 to avoid being located. The man says he is Arthur Knight and is a victim of mistaken identity who has never been to the United States. In August, a Scottish court ruled that there was no legal barrier to the extradition of Rossi.

Zimbabwe suspects cholera caused 100 deaths: Zimbabwe has recorded 100 suspected deaths from cholera and more than 5,000 possible cases since last month, prompting the government to impose restrictions, including limiting numbers at funerals and stopping some social gatherings in affected areas. The health ministry announced the death toll late Wednesday and said 30 of the deaths had been confirmed as from cholera through laboratory tests. It said 905 confirmed cases had been recorded, as well as another 4,609 suspected cases.

— From news services

Grenade fragments found in bodies of Wagner crash victims, Putin says

BY MARY ILYUSHINA

Hand grenade fragments were found in the bodies of rogue Wagner boss Yevgeniy Prigozhin and two top deputies who were killed in a plane crash in August, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday. The wreckage showed no "external impact" on the aircraft, he said, in an apparent denial that the Kremlin had ordered the outspoken mercenary leader shot down.

The Embraer business jet crashed near Russia's Tver region north of Moscow on Aug. 23, killing all 10 people on board, including Prigozhin, Wagner battlefield commander Dmitry Utkin and logistics chief Valery Chekalov. The still-unexplained crash came exactly two months after Prigozhin led his fighters in a brief mutiny against Moscow.

Western officials, independent observers and some in the Russian elite believe his death was ordered by Putin.

"I know, the question is probably hanging in the air, what happened to the ... company's management," the Russian president told a meeting of the Moscow-based Valdai forum, a venue he has used to issue foreign policy statements.

"We know about the plane crash," he said. "The head of the Investigative Committee reported to me just the other day that fragments of hand grenades were found in the bodies of those killed in the plane crash."

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

Russian investigators comb the scene of a jet crash near the village of Kuzhenkino in Russia's Tver region on Aug. 24. Wagner boss Yevgeniy Prigozhin and two of his top deputies died in the crash.

He said the committee, Russia's main investigative body, found "there was no external impact on the aircraft." Speculation on the cause has swirled since the crash was reported. Initial reports said an explosion was caused by a missile strike or an explosive on board, but scant evidence from the scene has been shown publicly.

U.S. officials have said the jet might have been destroyed by an explosion onboard. There was no sign of a missile launch targeting the plane. Similar theories have circulated on Russian Telegram channels, where users have aired the possibility that explosives were planted on the jet before it took off from Moscow.

In further remarks Thursday, Putin appeared to suggest that Priogzhin or someone in his entourage might have blown themselves up accidentally while intoxicated.

"Unfortunately, no examination was carried out about the presence of alcohol or drugs in the victims' blood," Putin said. "Although we know that after the well-known events, the FSB discovered not only 10 billion rubles in cash, but also 5 kilograms of cocaine in [Prigozhin's] St. Petersburg company office.

"In my opinion, such an examination should have been carried out."

The Wagner Group was a key fighting force in Ukraine, where it was credited with some of Moscow's most important battlefield victories, including the capture of Bakhmut, which Ukrainian forces are now fighting to regain. But Prigozhin, an ally of Putin, feuded with Russian military leaders, accusing Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and chief of the general staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov of intentionally depriving his troops of ammunition as Wagner mercenaries and the regular military fought for glory and influence.

The dispute reached a climax on June 23, when Prigozhin turned his fighters around to march on Moscow. Wagner mercenaries shot down Russian helicopters, killed Russian troops and occupied Russian bases. He called off the rebellion the next day, short of the Russian capital, in exchange for a guarantee of safety.

Western analysts and some in the Russian elite believe Putin might have ordered Prigozhin's death as punishment for the rebellion or to seize control of Prigozhin's lucrative commercial empire. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov has condemned what he called "lies" in the West that have presented the crash "from a certain angle."

After Prigozhin's "March of Justice," Wagner was sidelined from fighting in Ukraine, and the future of the rest of his empire, which reached as far as Africa, was murky. But for several weeks, Prigozhin traveled freely, visiting several African countries and Belarus, where Wagner relocated. That shocked Russia's elite, who said it showed weakness by Putin.

But high-ranking Russian government and military officials were moving Wagner fighters into the Defense Ministry, dismantling the business and claiming parts for themselves. Analysts have suggested that Putin was merely taking his time to get a better grasp at the mogul's enterprises.

Putin last week instructed Andrei Troshev, one of the most senior surviving former Wagner commanders, to take charge of "volunteer units" fighting in Ukraine, a signal the Kremlin wants to keep using the mercenaries in the war but with greater control.

Putin told Troshev to form "volunteer units that could perform various combat tasks, primarily in the zone of the special military operation," a Kremlin euphemism for the war in Ukraine.

At least 80 killed in drone attack during Syrian military academy graduation

BY SARAH DADOUCH

BEIRUT — A drone attack on a military academy in Homs, in central Syria, killed at least 80 people, authorities in Damascus said Thursday, one of the deadliest attacks on government-held territory in years.

Syria retaliated with airstrikes pummeling the northwest of the country, which is home to various rebel forces and millions of civilians.

Drones carrying explosives struck the Homs Military Academy during a graduation ceremony attended by families, according to the Syrian Foreign Ministry. Hussein al-Ghabash, the health minister, said the preliminary death toll was 80, including six women and six children. He said that 240 people were wounded.

Videos shared by Arab channels revealed a panicked scene: Gunshots filled the air as people ran for cover, hiding behind columns of a building decorated with Baathist slogans, from the ruling party of President Bashar al-Assad. The wounded lay on the ground screaming. Cadets in khaki uniforms tried to help them.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but the government attributed it to "terrorist organizations supported by the American occupation and other international parties that partner with them in shedding the blood of Syrians." It vowed to respond to the attackers "wherever they could be found on Syrian lands."

The Syrian air force rained rockets down on Idlib province, in northwest Syria, a small pocket of territory that has long been outside the government's control. It is home to a patchwork of rebel groups that oppose Assad, as well as some 4.5 million civilians — nearly 2.9 million of whom were displaced from other parts of Syria during the war.

The airstrikes targeted two schools, a market, and an electricity company, said Munir al-Mustapha, deputy director of Syrian Civil Defense, better known as the "White Helmets," an emergency response group that operates in rebel-held areas and is often first on the scene after government attacks.

At least five people were killed Thursday, Mustapha told The Washington Post. "There is a systematic and clear targeting of civilians [by] the terrorist Assad regime," he said.

Idlib is routinely targeted by government forces, and shelling has intensified in recent weeks. In early September, an estimated 26,500 people were displaced by strikes, according to the United Nations. Airstrikes on Wednesday night also killed five people. "The only thing the regime is good at is killing civilians," Mustapha said.

Much of Idlib is run by a government affiliated with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the most powerful rebel force in the area. Formerly a branch of al-Qaeda, it has attempted to rebrand itself in recent years and distance itself from the group.

HTS has used drones before in attacks on government targets, said Gregory Waters, a fellow at the Middle East Institute who tracks armed groups in Syria. "This would be, I think, by far, the deepest behind-the-lines drone strike," Waters said of the attack on the military academy. "And it seems targeted. The images of the scene seem to show it hit the VIP stands."

Judging by what unfolded afterward, Waters said the attack may have happened later than planned: The officers had already graduated and were among civilians, meaning the official program was likely over and any government officials in the stands may already have left.

Mohamad El Chamaa in Beirut and Suzan Haidamous in Washington contributed to this report.

The Washington Post | LIVE

Michael Lewis

Author, "Going Infinite"

Friday, Oct. 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Lewis talks about his new book which provides an inside story of the tumultuous collapse of the cryptocurrency firm FTX and its founder, Sam Bankman-Fried.

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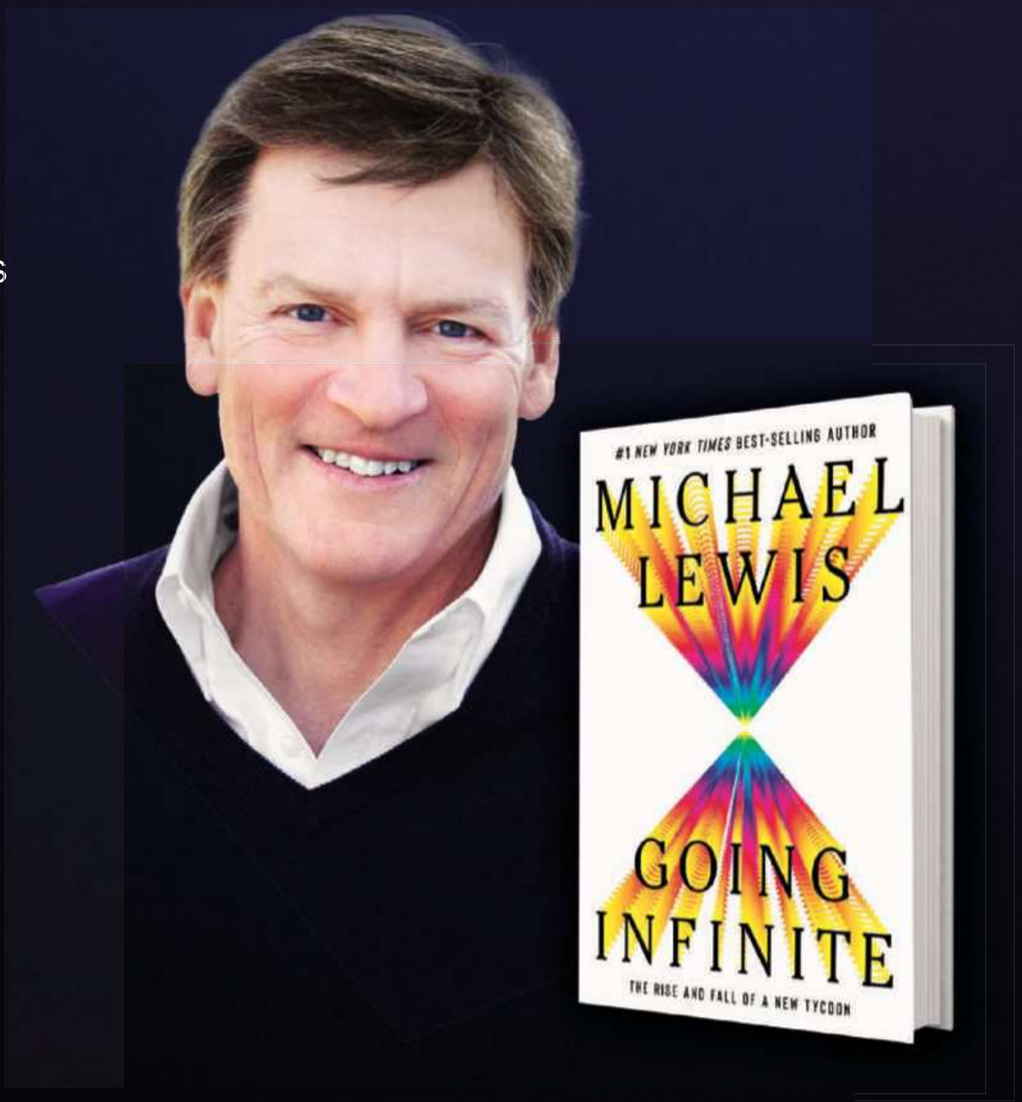

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WAR IN UKRAINE

White House weighs aid request amid House turmoil

Administration looks at size, timing of proposal after speaker's ouster

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB, JOHN HUDSON AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

White House officials are urgently strategizing on the best way to salvage U.S. aid to Ukraine, debating whether to push for a larger funding package or seek a smaller one that may have a better chance of passing now that support for Kyiv in Congress has been thrown into doubt by House Republicans' ouster of their leader this week.

The removal of Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) as speaker plunged the House into turbulent waters, grinding all legislative work to a halt until the deeply fractious GOP can elect a new leader, with some of the candidates openly skeptical of funding Ukraine in its war with Russia. President Biden expressed concern Wednesday about what the tumult in the House means for Ukraine aid and said he would be delivering a "major speech" on the issue soon.

"It does worry me," Biden said. "There are a majority of members of both parties that have said they are for Ukraine aid," he added, but "the dysfunction always concerns me."

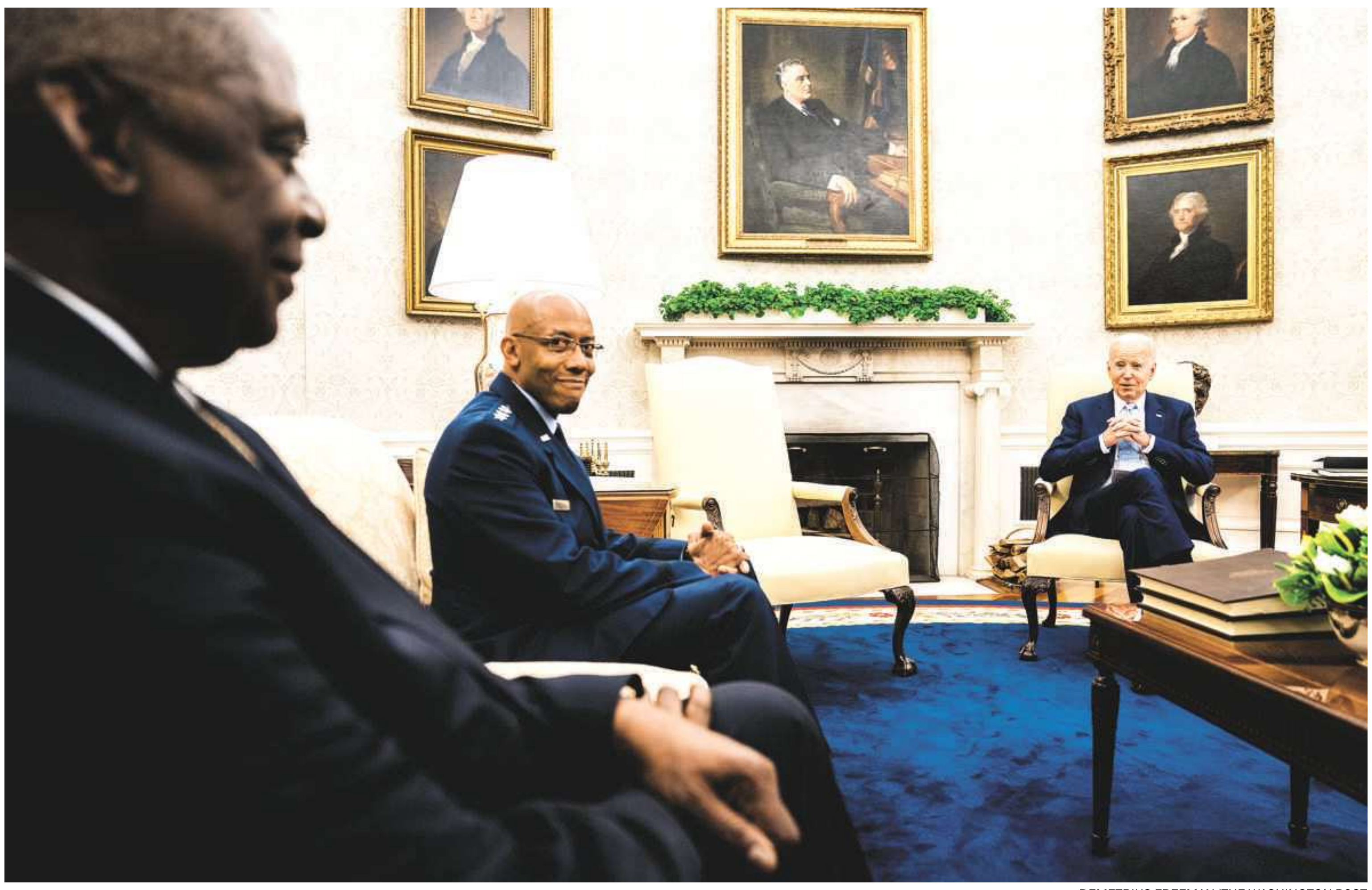
Biden received a briefing on Ukraine from his national security team on Thursday.

The White House has not yet settled on a new approach to bolstering Ukraine aid. Much of that strategy will depend on who becomes the next speaker and what kind of deal officials think they can reach with that person, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

For now, officials are deciding whether it would be more strategic to pursue a large package that could take them through most of 2024 and avoid having to vote on another supplemental request in a presidential election year, or whether to pursue a smaller, short-term package they may have a better chance of selling to wavering Republicans, according to two senior administration officials.

Some Ukraine advocates inside the administration and on Capitol Hill are pressing for one substantial package to ensure that the war-torn country has the funding it needs for the next year, with the hope that the matter could be tackled again after the presidential and congressional elections in November 2024.

White House officials say that for now they have enough funding authority to meet Ukraine's urgent battlefield needs, but it is not clear how long that will last. Given the unpredictability in the House, the administration is no longer pursuing the $24 billion supplemental funding request it initially wanted to include in a short-term government funding deal, one of the senior officials said.



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, left, and Gen. Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discuss national security issues and the war in Ukraine during a meeting with President Biden in the Oval Office on Thursday.

McCarthy was seen by the White House as broadly supportive of Ukraine aid, though in a nod to the growing skepticism among Republicans, he had warned against giving a "blank check" to the beleaguered country. One of the leading contenders to replace McCarthy, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), is opposed to the aid, saying Wednesday he opposes bringing up another Ukraine spending package.

The other lawmaker vying for the speakership, Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), is considered more supportive — though he, too, would have to respond to the outspoken faction of House Republicans who argue that the United States should be spending the money at home rather than on a distant conflict.

One senior Pentagon official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the administration has significant concerns about both Scalise and Jordan. But Scalise, the official said, "has a history of demonstrable bipartisanship" and recognizes the threat posed by Russia's aggression, while Jordan has "proven himself time and again" to be a hard-liner difficult to engage on foreign policy issues.

In the Senate, Ukraine is a far more bipartisan issue, as Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is a strong supporter of aid to Kyiv.

Many Ukraine advocates want the White House to push for the biggest possible aid package immediately.

"The goal should be to pass enough military aid to cover all of 2024," said Kurt Volker, who served as the State Department's special envoy for Ukraine under President Donald Trump. "Twenty-four billion [dollars] is simply not enough to cover next year, and it is in neither party's interest to tee up a situation for additional votes during the election campaign."

But a package of that size would face significant opposition from the conservative bloc of lawmakers who succeeded in stripping Ukraine aid from the recent stopgap funding bill.

"It will be extraordinarily difficult to push a large aid package through the House," said Dan Caldwell, vice president of the Center for Renewing America, a conservative group that opposes additional funding for Ukraine. "Anyone who has raised concerns about oversight of aid or corruption in Ukraine has been accused of being a Putin apologist, so there is a feeling that aid advocates haven't always been honest."

The White House this week launched a multipronged effort to reassure allies in Kyiv and in Europe on Ukraine. Even before McCarthy's ouster, Biden convened a call with leaders of Canada, Japan and European countries in which he "reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting Ukraine for as long as it takes," according to a White House summary.

A senior European policymaker who was on the call said that despite nervousness about the situation in Washington, it was "a positive message" for Biden to bring together leaders "to guarantee [U.S.] commitment to Ukraine."

Administration officials have been in regular contact with their anxious counterparts in Kyiv to tell them the United States remains committed to the war effort. But that has not assuaged Ukrainian concerns over how the White House will overcome the divisions and drama on Capitol Hill, according to several senior administration officials familiar with the conversations.

As of Monday, the Defense Department had congressional authority to transfer $5.4 billion in U.S. military weapons and ammunition to Ukraine, the latest tranche in what has been more than $43 billion in U.S. security assistance since Russia's invasion in February 2022. The Pentagon has pledged to continue providing weapons as needed, with a recent focus on air defenses, mine clearance and artillery ammunition.

Allies in Kyiv and Europe had begun worrying about whether the United States would maintain its commitment even before the chaotic developments in the House. Just days before House Republicans ousted McCarthy, Congress dropped Ukraine funding from the short-term spending deal that averted a government shutdown, a step that "freaked everyone out" among Ukraine backers in Europe, according to a senior U.S. diplomat posted on the continent.

Still, White House officials had been confident that McCarthy would bring another aid package to a vote. But as House Republicans face a potentially grueling fight over their next speaker, with candidates under pressure to make promises to various party factions, it remains unclear whether the victorious speaker will bring up a funding bill.

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky left Washington last month, he was more visibly anxious than he had been in previous meetings with Biden about the future of U.S. support, according to a senior administration official familiar with the meeting who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private interactions. Biden assured Zelensky that the United States was committed to standing with Ukraine for as long as it takes — a common refrain of the president — and expressed confidence that Congress would ultimately approve billions more in military and economic assistance.

In their Oval Office meeting, Biden also spoke extensively to Zelensky about corruption in Ukraine, following the publication of a U.S. strategy document saying the problem is a significant threat to the country, according to a person familiar with the meeting. A senior administration official said fighting corruption has long been a priority for Biden and that he did not raise the issue because of a particular scandal or issue.

Some U.S. officials worry that the growing opposition is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin an incentive to wait out the United States until the 2024 election. They see little chance of a diplomatic solution before then, as Putin waits see whether Trump, who has long been relatively sympathetic toward the Russian leader, regains the White House.

"By all indications, Putin has decided he's not interested in negotiation because he wants to see what happens in 2024, and he has clearly thrown in his lot and his future in the Ukraine war on the possibility of Trump returning to power," said Ivo Daalder, former U.S. ambassador to NATO under President Barack Obama and president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Adding to Biden's political challenge, the war itself has remained largely stagnant for the past year. A highly anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive has failed to produce significant gains, leaving the two sides in a grinding military slog.

Americans' support for the war has softened considerably since the invasion a year and a half ago. A survey released Wednesday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs found that most Americans still support sending additional arms and supplies to the Ukrainians, but the public is more divided over whether the investment has been worthwhile.

Other recent surveys have shown more public skepticism, including a CNN poll in August, which found that 55 percent say Congress should not authorize additional funding to support Ukraine, while 45 percent support additional aid.

Both Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have told their Ukrainian counterparts that they are seeking a way to transition to lower levels of long-term aid that would be more politically sustainable in the United States. That could be accompanied by efforts to rebuild Ukraine's military-industrial base to make it easier for the country to arm itself, officials said.

Politicians skeptical of the Ukraine effort are also gaining traction outside the United States. In Slovakia, a member of the European Union, former prime minister Robert Fico's party was the top vote-getter in Saturday elections after he campaigned on a platform of ending aid for Ukraine and starting peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv. Slovakia's previous government had been among the most aggressive Ukraine backers in Europe.

European policymakers said that as they watch the dynamics in Washington, they realize they may have to shoulder more of the burden.

"It is obvious that if the U.S. hadn't handed Ukraine the military force and the military support, military tools, Ukraine would not have been able to survive — and we, the E.U. and the rest of the world, should give full credit to the American people for that," Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said in an interview. "We need to do more in the E.U., in my mind, on the military side . . . to match fully the contribution made by the U.S., because this I think is important for keeping credibility in the eyes of the American people."

Ukrainians, meanwhile, have been warning their partners that they are unlikely to deal Russia a knockout blow anytime soon.

"This war could last for a very long period of time," Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt said in an interview. "This has also been the message from the Ukrainians. . . . They urged us to be realistic. So we should be prepared for that."

Dan Lamothe contributed to this report.

At least 51 killed in strike near Kupyansk as Zelensky attends summit in Spain

UKRAINE FROM A1

condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the incident publicly, said it was still unclear if a local villager working with Russian forces had reported the time and location of the memorial as a strike target. "This area is within the range of reconnaissance drones, relatively close to the front line," the official said.

Videos from the scene, verified by The Washington Post, showed rows of burned bodies lying in grass as rescue crews pulled remains from a destroyed brick building. The entire village, which has a population of fewer than 500 people, had been invited to the memorial service, the law enforcement official said.

A preliminary investigation indicated that the strike was carried out with an Iskander ballistic cruise missile, Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko wrote on the Telegram messaging platform. Russia has used Iskanders in other attacks in Ukraine, including for strikes in August on downtown areas in the cities of Chernihiv and Pokrovsk.

Even in Ukraine, a country where strikes that kill scores of civilians have become tragically commonplace during 19 months of war, Thursday's attack will resonate as one of the worst.

In January, a missile hit a residential apartment building in Dnipro, killing 46 people and injuring 80. Last year, an attack on the Kramatorsk train station killed more than 60 people.

Zelensky, who was attending a European Political Community summit in Granada, Spain, on Thursday, wrote in an Instagram post: "Now, we are talking with European leaders, in particular, about bolstering our air defense, reinforcing our warriors, and giving our country protection from terror."

"There will be a retaliation against terrorists," he added. "An absolutely fair and powerful one."

In the U.S. House, Republican opposition to additional funding for Ukraine has grown. The White House is concerned that U.S. aid to Ukraine will be even more difficult to negotiate after Republicans ousted Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) from the speakership this week, throwing the House into chaos. McCarthy was seen as a supporter of the funding.

Ukrainian officials have said that Moscow for months has been trying to gain ground toward Kupyansk, a small city just 30 miles from Russia's border veined with strategic roads and rail tracks, including a train line that reaches the border.

OLEH SYNYEHUBOV/TELEGRAM/REUTERS

A firefighter at the site of a strike in the village of Hroza, in Ukraine's northeast Kharkiv region, which officials said killed at least 51 people Thursday in one of the war's deadliest missile strikes to date.

Russian forces occupied the town for six months last year before Ukraine took it back about a year ago. The Russian offensive in the area could also be intended to divert Ukrainian military resources from the front line in the south and the east, where Kyiv has mounted a counteroffensive against occupying Russian troops.

Russian soldiers near Kupyansk have made modest gains, but their ultimate goal is unclear. The Kharkiv region, where the city is located, is not one of the four Ukrainian regions, in addition to Crimea, that Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared to be annexed by Russia, in violation of international law.

Shortly after news of the attack, Putin aired familiar false accusations that the Kyiv government is led by Nazis and that the West is to blame for what he called a Ukrainian "coup d'état" in 2014.

In fact, then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych fled Kyiv after months of protests against his corrupt government and against his refusal to sign political and economic agreements with the European Union. He had previously promised to sign the accords but changed his mind under pressure from Moscow.

Putin, speaking at the Valdai Discussion Club, an annual policy meeting hosted by the Russian leader, also repeated his false claim that Russia is not the aggressor.

"We never intimidate the people," Putin said. "We never intimidated the people of Crimea and Sevastopol with the Nazi-like ethnic cleansing. We didn't try to subjugate Donbas with shellings and bombings. We never tried to dispose of those who wanted to speak their native language," he asserted.

Putin also alleged that Ukraine had lost 90,000 personnel since July 4 and more than 900 tanks and armored vehicles, and he claimed that Russia is succeeding in its military objectives.

"Is that convincing or not?" he said. "We are proceeding to achieve our goals, and I am sure that we will achieve that and . . . all the tasks that we set forth."

Putin said that Russia had completed successful tests of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile, without elaborating on the tests, and added that the missile and another nuclear missile, Sarmat, would soon go into production. He warned that Russia may de-ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was signed but never ratified by the United States.

Robyn Dixon in Riga, Latvia, and Meg Kelly in Washington contributed to this report.

WAR IN UKRAINE

E.U. considers issue of adding embattled country to bloc

Leaders discuss how to bring in Ukraine and others to counter Russia

BY EMILY RAUHALA, BEATRIZ RÍOS AND ROBYN DIXON

LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky walks with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez during a European summit in Granada, Spain, on Thursday. E.U. expansion was on the minds of leaders.

GRANADA, SPAIN — In a week when financial support from Ukraine's largest backer, the United States, suddenly looks shaky, European Union leaders gathered in southern Spain on Thursday to talk about what would need to happen to extend Ukraine the support of E.U. membership.

There is broad consensus among E.U. leaders that growing their bloc is necessary to counter Russia and its allies, which is good news for Kyiv and other capitals that want to be part of the club. Yet even in the best of times, expanding the E.U. to include Ukraine and others would be a costly, complex and politically perilous process. Trying to move that forward in the midst of war multiplies the difficulties.

There are immediate challenges. An E.U. country, Slovakia, just backed the party of a populist who supports Russia. Ukraine and its western neighbors have been arguing over the grain trade. And the slow progress of Ukraine on the battlefield has raised fear of a frozen conflict and increasing war weariness in Europe.

In a sign of how the needs of Kyiv may be slipping on the E.U. agenda, the summit this week has been partly overshadowed by the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, tensions between Serbia and Kosovo and disagreement over how to address migration.

On the eve of talks on Thursday, President Biden convened a call with key allies to reassure them the United States still supports Ukraine, despite Congress passing a government funding bill last week that did not include funding for the embattled country.

In Granada, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky acknowledged "the events in America, the political storm that is gathering momentum." Yet he said, "I am confident in America. These are strong people, strong society, strong institutions, strong energy of democracy." He encouraged E.U. leaders to push ahead and embrace their "independent power potential" while working "to defend our values and our common space of freedom with the U.S."

European officials and diplomats have in recent weeks shrugged off questions about American support for Ukraine, insisting that Republican leaders will, in time, accept their theory that a victory for Ukraine is core to U.S. interests, in part because of the message it sends Taiwan on territorial integrity.

That insistence continued in the public messaging on Thursday. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she was "very confident" of American support for Ukraine. "What the United States is working on is the timing," she said as she entered the venue. Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said, "I think political support is high, despite the developments we see in different countries."

But with U.S. politics in shambles after the ouster of Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) as House speaker, it has become harder for Europe to ignore the possibility of a shift in the U.S. stance and what it may mean for Ukrainian prospects on the battlefield and beyond.

Funding delays would "put at risk the Ukrainian victory that should ensure sustainable and long-lasting peace on the European continent that is in the interest of the United States," said Victoria Voytsitska, director of advocacy at the International Center for Ukrainian Victory and a former member of the Ukrainian parliament.

E.U. foreign ministers traveled to Kyiv on Monday in a symbolic show of support, with foreign policy chief Josep Borrell announcing a proposal for more than $5 billion in additional funding for Ukraine. But that money still needs to be approved, and getting unanimity for further aid packages may not happen easily. Populist Robert Fico, whose party got the most votes in the recent Slovakian election, campaigned on ending military support for Ukraine. Hungary has already been blocking military aid.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, as always, seemed to relish in the Western divisions. Speaking on Thursday in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, he noted that Washington faced "certain problems with their budget." The Biden administration might simply "print money" to resolve it, Putin ventured. But he also warned, "as soon as they stop" military assistance to Ukraine, "snap and it all goes down."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov predicted Thursday that the United States would remain involved in the conflict, but division would deepen. "Our forecasts indicate that weariness with this conflict, weariness with the absolutely absurd sponsorship of the Kyiv regime will grow in various countries, among them the United States," he said.

If the issue of aid for Ukraine has made for strained discussions, then the issue of E.U. membership is all the more fraught. In meetings on Friday, E.U. leaders will consider how to bring more countries closer, including a potential expansion of the bloc from 27 to over 30 members, potentially drawing in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, as well as several countries in the western Balkans.

Joining the E.U. takes years. The political and legal system of a prospective member is studied, assessed and then slowly brought into compliance with a rather lofty rule book in Brussels. A raft of countries, including Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia, have been in membership talks for years. Turkey, which applied to join in 1987, remains a candidate, technically, despite the fact that its prospects look, at best, slim. Over the past year, Ukraine has worked closely with E.U. officials to undertake reforms that would start to bring it in line with what is required. The E.U. will decide whether to open accession talks with Kyiv in December.

The challenge in Brussels will be equally complex. The prospect of bringing in Ukraine and other additional members has renewed questions about how the bloc runs with 27 members, as well as how it would run with Ukraine and others in the fold. "It is vital that we contemplate the future dynamics of our Union, our policies and decision-making, among others, to ensure the EU's continued success," Charles Michel, president of the European Council, wrote in a letter to leaders ahead of the informal summit on Friday.

If Ukraine joined, it would become the fifth-most-populous E.U. country and its poorest per capita by a significant margin, drawing subsidies away from other members. A recent disagreement between Ukraine and its E.U. neighbors, including Poland, foreshadowed the challenge of one day bringing a major grain exporter into the single market.

Some also wonder how the E.U. can welcome new members when it is struggling, very publicly, with current members like Hungary and Poland. In a much larger bloc, with more members and an even broader set of interests, what mechanisms will be available to deal with outliers? "To me, it is not only a question of what to do about the people that want to come in," said Camino Mortera Martinez, who leads the Brussels office of the Center for European Reform. "It is also what to do about the people who are in and not necessarily complying with rules."

Then there is the issue of timing. Michel, the European Council president, has said he wants Europe to be ready for the new members by 2030. Some doubt that is possible. "The target date of 2030 is not realistic," said Teona Lavrelashvili, a policy analyst at the European Policy Center, a think tank focused on European integration.

"It is political commitment," Lavrelashvili said, adding, "I think it is important to have the political commitment, but we should be careful not to overpromise" and "we have to use this time to see what is feasible and what is not feasible."

Dixon reported from in Riga, Latvia. David L. Stern in Kyiv contributed to this report.

U.S. wary as Honduras cuts longtime Taiwan tie, throwing its lot in with China

KAREN DEYOUNG/THE WASHINGTON POST

GREG BAKER/POOL/AP

INTI OCON/PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP

TOP: Graffiti seen on Aug. 22 on a wall along a street in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa declares, “Honduras is with Taiwan.” MIDDLE: Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, left, and Qin Gang, then China’s foreign minister, raise a toast at a ceremony in Beijing on March 26 following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. ABOVE: U.S. Vice President Harris, center, speaks with Xiomara Castro, right, after Castro’s inauguration as Honduras’s first female president on Jan. 27, 2022.

CHINA FROM **A1**

several ports on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean, Puerto Cortés, on the northern coast, is the largest and the only deep-water facility in Central America.

While the United States itself recognized the People’s Republic of China 44 years ago, it has continued to urge the dwindling number of countries with diplomatic relations with Taiwan — now down to 13 — not to switch.

As China continues to campaign for diplomatic support, several of its most recent successes have been in Central America — Panama in 2017, El Salvador in 2018, Nicaragua in 2021 and now Honduras. Guatemala’s president-elect has indicated he plans to follow. In South America — where China is now the biggest trading partner — Paraguay is the lone holdout. In the Caribbean, Haiti and three smaller island nations continue to recognize Taiwan.

Castro’s government dismisses U.S. concerns as overwrought and patronizing. “We have a good relationship with the U.S. in defense and security,” Foreign Minister Enrique Reina said in an interview here. “I think that we will not change that at all. Our interest is in cooperation [with China] in general areas — education, health, technology related to civilian use. Transportation, infrastructure. But not anything related to security and defense.”

Like others in the hemisphere, Honduras has moved to the left, and Castro’s “democratic socialist” government is expanding its political and economic alliances in that direction. “For some people,” Reina said, without mentioning names, “I think it’s difficult to see that we’re a government that makes its own decisions.”

Recognition of China, with its huge market for raw material imports and appetite for foreign investment, is about “pragmatism, not ideology,” he said. China may be “a problem for the political interests of the United States. But for us . . . it’s mainly an opportunity to seek other alternatives for cooperation.”

So far, there is little evidence of China’s presence here. Its new embassy is lodged in temporary quarters at a luxury hotel. The streets are crowded with restaurants such as Dunkin’, Pizza Hut and McDonald’s, and local businesses announce themselves with English-language signs. In one downtown neighborhood, a lone piece of graffiti declares in Spanish, “Honduras is with Taiwan.”

Beijing says it has a lot to offer Honduras. As a “developing country” that has managed rapid growth, China has experience that is “easier to share” than that of some other partners, said Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington. (The Chinese Embassy in Tegucigalpa did not respond to repeated requests for interviews.)

With policies and a financial market that are more “predictable” and “stable,” Liu said, China has provided Latin America with an increasingly attractive alternative to its traditional ties with the United States. “Maybe the West needs a smarter strategy,” he said.

‘The 20-yard line’

U.S. aid and investments throughout the region are historically seen as slow in coming and with significant stipulations on human rights and democracy, along with a preference for the private sector and nongovernmental organizations. Honduras, long known for violence and corruption, has been subject to particular U.S. scrutiny. In contrast, China’s offers of trade and investment, with few strings attached, have increasingly outweighed traditional ties or ideology in the region.

China has often outbid U.S. companies for infrastructure and raw material projects, including mining, in staunch U.S. allies such as Colombia. Even when Brazil’s diplomatic ties with Beijing cooled during the right-wing administration of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Chinese trade and investment continued to grow. In Argentina, a massive space station run by the China Satellite Launch and Tracking Control General, part of the Chinese military’s Strategic Support Force, rises high above Patagonia. China has made significant investments in Chile’s substantial lithium resources.

Central America has gotten little visible payoff for the diplomatic switches, with the exception of Panama, where China now operates ports on both ends of the Panama Canal.

In Costa Rica, which led the way in ditching Taiwan in 2007, China built a new soccer arena — replicating its “soccer diplomacy” across Africa. But while a major Chinese-built road is under construction, a planned oil refinery was canceled, and hopes for increased exports to China have not materialized.

“We got the stadium, 200 Chinese police patrol cars and several infrastructure programs that were going to be developed,” Luis Guillermo Solís, Costa Rica’s president from 2014 to 2018, said in a recent interview.

“I got a review of the troops” during a 2015 visit to China and meeting with Xi, Solís added. “It was January, and it was cold. I didn’t get the golden tents with the dragons.”

In addition to help in restructuring its national debt, Honduras seeks loans and investments for a long list of potential infrastructure projects — at least four dams to improve electricity production; roads, communications and a new hospital; and a proposed new prison for gang members, traffickers and other criminals on an uninhabited Caribbean island about 100 miles off the mainland.

China’s development model “has a lot to teach” this country of 10 million people, Ricardo Salgado, Castro’s strategic planning minister and lead cheerleader for the new relationship, told Chinese television just days after diplomatic ties were established. “In the next four years, we should create at least half a million jobs.”

So far, Beijing has not committed to any of the Honduran proposals, and Reina said that the United States, the European Union, Japan and any other countries are welcome to offer to fund them. “We’ll see which of these countries are interested in investing in these projects.”

Beyond bilateral ties, China has moved to embed itself in regional organizations. In August, the Central American Parliament voted to boot Taiwan and transfer its “permanent observer” status to the People’s Republic of China. “This again shows that the one-China principle represents the unstoppable trend of the times and has the overwhelming support of the people,” the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Even if some of the returns envisioned by China’s newest partners in the hemisphere have not yet materialized, officials at both the Pentagon and the State Department have spent years worrying that China’s string of diplomatic victories has laid the groundwork for future threats.

“The PRC is investing in critical infrastructure, including deep-water ports, cyber and space facilities, which can have a potential dual use for malign commercial and military activities,” Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, told Congress in March. “In any potential global conflict, the PRC could leverage strategic regional ports to restrict U.S. naval and commercial ship access. This is a strategic risk that we can’t accept or ignore.”

“They’re on the 20-yard line to our homeland,” Richardson told a forum at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington in August.

A demand for billions

When Castro mentioned plans to establish relations with China during her 2021 presidential campaign, the Biden administration took notice, sending Brian A. Nichols, the assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, to Tegucigalpa, the capital, to meet with the candidate.

“I underscored the importance of really looking at the reality of relationships, what is on offer, having all the information before making a decision,” Nichols said in an interview.

He returned to Honduras for another round as part of a U.S. delegation headed by Vice President Harris to Castro’s January 2022 inauguration. “We want to make sure that they understand that the PRC often has not delivered on the promises that it has made to encourage countries to change recognition” away from Taiwan, Nichols said. “And that the benefits promised often prove to be ephemeral . . . or nonexistent. That the debt overhang of the projects that they have advocated for . . . have left buyer’s remorse.”

Taiwan sent its own delegation to the inauguration, headed by Vice President Lai Ching-te. During a meeting with Castro, the Taiwanese president’s office reported, the new Honduran leader “recalled with gratitude Taiwan’s many years of assistance to Honduras and . . . emphasized her intention to continue deepening friendly ties.”

Castro waited more than a year to make good on her campaign promise. On March 15, she revealed on the platform X, then known as Twitter, that she had instructed Reina to begin negotiations with Beijing, and the deal was done 10 days later. Taiwan did not take the dismissal lightly. At a news conference in Taipei, the capital, Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said Reina wrote to him just before the break demanding $2.45 billion — $90 million for a hospital, $350 million for a dam and about $2 billion to “eat . . . its national debt.” Wu likened the request to attempted “bribery.”

Reina described the pre-break discussions with Taiwan as “frank” and “pragmatic.” Taiwan, he said, did not respond to Honduran proposals to negotiate new terms for its debt and consider “a loan for building some hydroelectric projects that are important.”

The State Department’s public reaction was terse. It was a sovereign decision that Honduras had every right to make, a statement said, while noting that China “often makes promises in exchange for diplomatic recognition that ultimately remain unfulfilled.”

Castro’s message to the region and the world, said Gustavo Irías, executive director of the nongovernmental Center of Study for Democracy here, was that “we have ceased to be a banana republic, and that we are not necessarily going to follow the dictates of American foreign policy.”

Watchful eyes

The China announcement served as a temporary distraction from the political chaos and stalemate that have ensued since Castro’s coalition took over from years of what she calls a “narcodictatorship” that left behind a limping economy, institutional weakness and endemic corruption.

Her predecessor, Juan Orlando Hernández — whose acquiescence to U.S. defense policy and cooperation on migration issues kept him on the good side of both the Obama and Trump administrations — was indicted by the U.S. Justice Department on narcotics trafficking and weapons charges. He was extradited early last year by the Castro government and is awaiting trial in New York.

Castro’s first-round electoral victory, on a platform of social justice, an end to legal impunity for corruption, and economic growth had made clear that Hondurans were enthusiastic about the changes she promised. So was the Biden administration.

But without a legislative majority, Castro has made little progress in moving major proposals to take power away from her political opponents, the private sector and foreign investors — the “corrupt elite,” as her government describes it.

Critics charge that Castro is more interested in ideology than governing, strengthening ties with leftist regimes in Venezuela and Nicaragua and copying the autocratic populism of El Salvador’s Nayib Bukele, who has dealt with gang violence by declaring a state of emergency and throwing tens of thousands into a newly built mega-prison.

Just like her predecessors, they say, she has packed her government with relatives and ideological cronies. Her son and her husband, Mel Zelaya — a former president ousted in a 2009 coup supported by some of her current political opponents — are her chief presidential advisers. Her nephew is defense minister. Her daughter, a member of Congress, has figured prominently in the nascent relationship with China.

“The government has managed to create an image of China as a savior,” said Helui Castillo, who is in charge of commercial policy at the Honduran Private Enterprise Council (COHEP), the country’s main business and trade organization.

“Commercially speaking, I see it as there’s not going to be a big change,” she said.

Even without diplomatic relations, China’s trade with Honduras was already second only to that of the United States, albeit far more imbalanced. In addition to coffee and produce, the United States imports Honduran-made knit and woven apparel and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

small electrical goods — items that China itself exports in quantity. In exchange for a wide range of Chinese communications, technological and manufactured goods, Honduras exports relatively small amounts of agricultural products and raw materials to China.

Although its influence is rarely seen in big projects and investments, the United States is deeply embedded here. The estimated $8.5 billion sent home last year, according to the World Bank — almost entirely by the 1.1 million people of Honduran origin living in the United States — "is the biggest part of our economy," Castillo said. "We all have family there. It's two hours away. It's our main commercial partner. We have a [U.S. military] base here. . . . There are strong ties. Many people say out loud they don't like the United States, but deep down . . . they go to Disney. And they're still trying to get visas."

Portraying the new China-Honduras relationship as a happy, mutually beneficial one has been a priority for both governments, with regular promotions here on TikTok and other social media platforms. Xinhua, the Chinese state news agency, has opened a bureau in Tegucigalpa and announced plans to make the Honduran capital a hub for its Central American operations. Shortly after diplomatic relations were first established, a group of 30 Honduran journalists were taken on a 10-day all-expenses-paid tour of China.

"It was very modern," said one, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid problems with the government. "Driverless cars. Incredible technology. Big buildings. A high level of education. We got all VIP treatment, and every day was stuffed" with tours of massive infrastructure and meetings with local and national officials.

All of it was conducted under the watchful eye of Chinese Foreign Ministry minders, the journalist said.

China's Central Propaganda Department signed an agreement — one of 17 bilateral accords during Castro's visit — under which Honduras's telecommunications commission will broadcast and promote products of the state-owned China Media Group. The two countries will also "form a cooperative mechanism in news reporting," along with technology and personnel exchanges, to "help China-Honduras relations get off to a strong start," Chinese television reported.

GUSTAVO AMADOR/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

ORLANDO SIERRA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Honduran President Xiomara Castro and her husband, former Honduran president Mel Zelaya, at a public event in Tegucigalpa on Aug. 29. ABOVE: Taiwanese Vice President Lai Ching-te, left, reviews an honor guard at the Soto Cano air base upon his arrival in Honduras on Jan. 26, 2022, for Castro's inauguration ceremony, when Taiwan and Honduras still had ties.

Get over it

As Honduran officials touted the benefits of strong links to Beijing, often with veiled barbs toward Washington, U.S. Ambassador Laura Dogu went on the offensive. "In the year since my arrival, it has become clear to me that many Hondurans don't fully understand how the people of the United States support the people of Honduras," she said in an August speech to the Honduran American Chamber of Commerce.

Dogu highlighted that bilateral trade grew by a record 22 percent last year. Since the start of Castro's government, she said, "the United States government has started programs that will represent an investment of over $800 million."

> *"The [Honduran] government has managed to create an image of China as a savior. . . . Commercially speaking, I see it as there's not going to be a big change."*
>
> **Helui Castillo,** who is in charge of commercial policy at the Honduran Private Enterprise Council

"Our requirements are that jobs go to Hondurans and the project follows international environmental and labor standards," she said. She added that U.S. agencies provide training and support across a wide range of activities and services including entrepreneurship, education, law and governance, human rights, agriculture, and combating corruption.

"The bonds between our countries and our people cannot be broken," Dogu said.

But conversations with a number of officials and others in both countries, many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide candid assessments and avoid further antagonism, made clear that those bonds are strained. Some believe that Castro and her husband hold a grudge for what they viewed as insufficient U.S. support for reinstating Zelaya after the 2009 coup. As recently as her Sept. 20 speech at the annual U.N. General Assembly, Castro attributed her own election to those who "rose out of the resistance in the streets fighting the coup d'état" that overthrew him.

"I certainly think it's shaped their view of the world," said Nichols, the State Department assistant secretary. " 'Grudge' is an emotional state, so I'm not in a position to characterize it. What I will say is that we are focused on having a strong relationship."

But Castro officials see disrespect from Washington — which has yet to invite Castro to a White House meeting with President Biden — and a policy that harps on corruption and human rights over development and supplies nonmilitary aid to civil sectors antagonistic to the government.

Tom Shannon, a longtime senior State Department official in top jobs on Latin America policy, is now at the high-powered Washington law firm Arnold & Porter, where he manages a $90,000-per-month lobbying contract with the Honduran government to improve its relations with the United States. The Biden administration, he said, should just get over its pique.

"If I'm the U.S. government looking at Honduras, I don't care what they say," Shannon said in an interview. "What I care about is, does the joint task force get to operate? Do we get to fly at will out of the air base, get to launch our [Drug Enforcement Administration] reconnaissance aircraft, work with Honduras on air and sea intercepts? Because where else are we going to get that kind of help? . . . Having a secure base of operations to run counterdrug and security operations is hugely important."

The many roadblocks, restrictions and sensitivities surrounding U.S. assistance and policy "puts us in an almost impossible place" in competing with China, said Shannon, a complaint that many current U.S. diplomats share.

Even strong supporters of the Biden administration worry that its focus on the Ukraine war and the Indo-Pacific has led to lost ground in the region.

"I just struggle to see what this administration is doing in Latin America that has any heft to it," Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and took a year off from law school to work with Jesuit missionaries in Honduras, told State and Treasury department officials in a heated July hearing.

"If China's offer is, 'We're not demanding any reform, here's some money, here's an investment,' and our offer is, 'Once we help you improve all these aspects of yourself, we're open to more interaction' . . . we will fall farther and farther and farther behind."

Cade Cadell in Washington contributed to this report.

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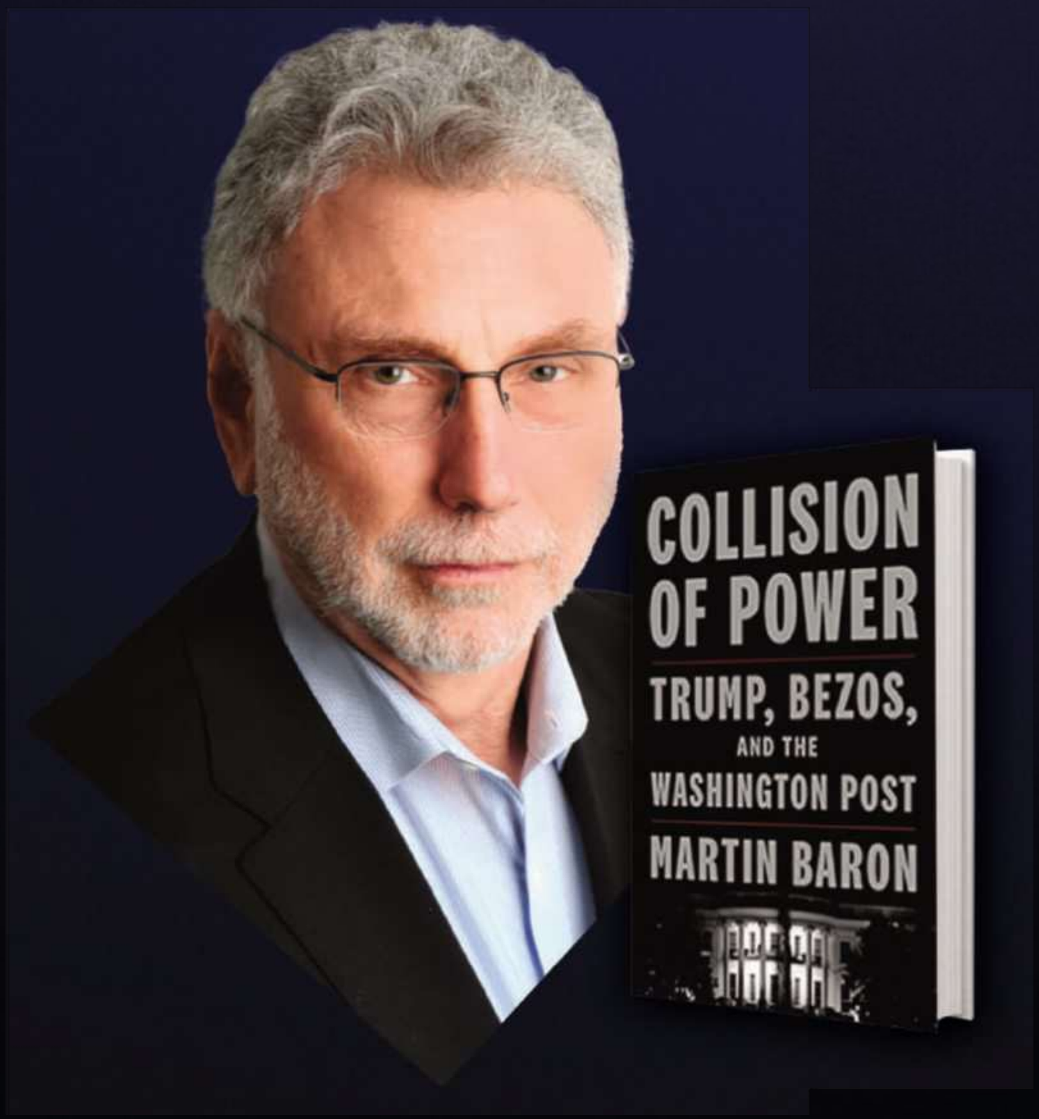

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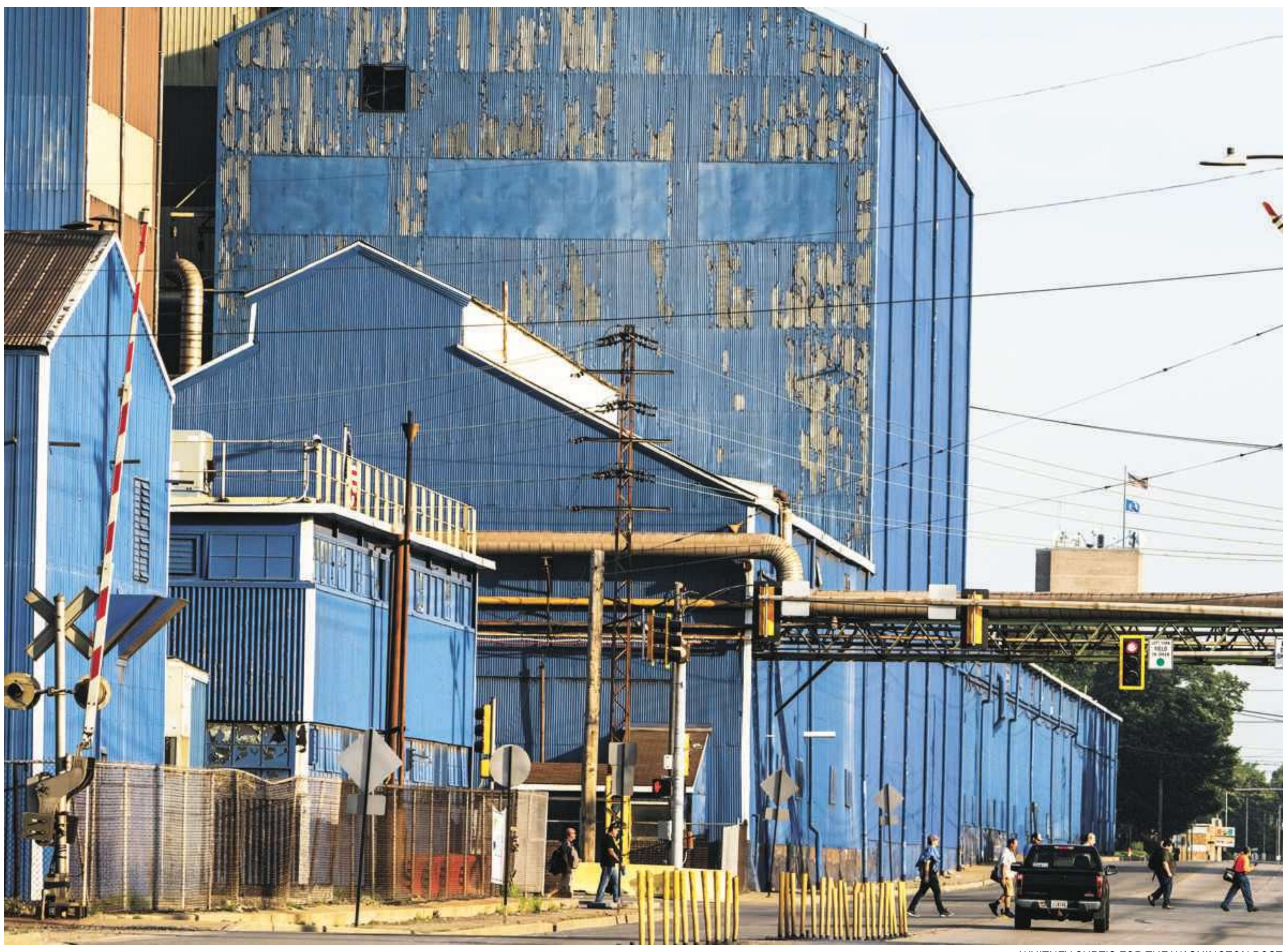

WHITNEY CURTIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The U.S. Steel plant in Granite City, Ill., where the company laid off 300 workers in response to the ongoing United Auto Workers strike.

Automotive suppliers lay off thousands in far-reaching fallout of UAW strike

As factories remain dark, some firms warn of possible bankruptcy if stoppage goes on for much longer

BY JEANNE WHALEN

The United Auto Workers strike against Detroit's Big Three automakers is rapidly rippling outward to roil companies and workers far beyond the picket lines.

The strike to date includes only about 17 percent of the UAW's 150,000 autoworker members, with the union ordering the rest to continue working for now. But Ford, General Motors and Stellantis have also temporarily laid off nearly 4,000 nonstriking workers whose plants depend on striking facilities — including another 400 laid off from Ford, according to a late Wednesday announcement.

The spillover effects are hitting automotive suppliers hard, with some firms in Michigan and Ohio resorting to temporary layoffs and warning that bankruptcy looms if the strike carries on much longer.

More than 3,000 supplier employees have been affected so far, a Washington Post tally shows, while an industry association says nearly 30 percent of its supplier members have resorted to layoffs.

Beyond the auto sector, U.S. Steel blamed the strike and the prospect of weaker orders for its decision to idle a blast furnace in Granite City, Ill., and temporarily lay off 300 workers.

The fallout shows the outsize role the auto industry plays in the U.S. economy, to which it contributes about 3 percent of gross domestic product.

It also comes after several years of tumult in the auto sector caused by pandemic-related gyrations in supply and demand, including a computer chip shortage that idled factories for weeks at a time.

An industry group representing auto suppliers, MEMA, is urging the Biden administration to expedite an aid package for the companies — a step that the administration has been preparing to take in recent weeks, The Post has reported. Grants and loans are among the options the White House has considered. The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nearly 30 percent of MEMA members surveyed by the group last week said they have laid off some workers as a result of the strike. More than 60 percent said they were expecting to begin layoffs by mid-October.

"Many vehicle suppliers are still recovering following covid, the chip crisis and continued labor shortages," Bill Long, president of MEMA, wrote in a letter to President Biden last week. Small suppliers are "in every state throughout the U.S. and are often the largest employer in a county or region," he wrote.

Industry executives and administration officials warn that widespread failure of these smaller supplier firms — which number in the thousands — would make it very difficult for the Detroit automakers to fire back up again once the strike is over. The chip crisis showed that even one missing part can bring entire assembly lines to a halt.

A striking Jeep plant in Toledo — a massive facility whose 5,800 UAW workers walked off the job Sept. 15 — shows how the shutdown quickly rippled outward. Nearly a dozen third-party suppliers to that factory have already temporarily laid off 2,100 workers, Bruce Baumhower, head of the UAW Local 12 union hall, told The Post.

He knows the tally because those 2,100 supplier workers are UAW members. "This has a huge, huge impact on our local," he said, ticking off the names of suppliers that make axles, seats, dashboard displays and other parts.

Many of the temporarily laid-off supplier workers around the country will be relying on state unemployment benefits. How quickly they will get back to work is still unclear.

Some suppliers lack the deep pockets to sustain a long suspension of their sales. Many are family-owned businesses, while others are owned by private equity investors. The largest suppliers tend to be publicly traded companies with more resources to ride out the uncertainty.

One supplier in Michigan told The Post that it had to lay off all its workers because its orders fell to zero after the strike began.

"I completely respect the right to try to bargain for better pay — I think they do deserve better pay," the owner of the supplier said of the UAW, speaking on the condition of anonymity to avoid reprisals from the union or the Big Three.

But he said he worries about it stretching on too long.

"If it lasts as long as I think it's going to last, it's going to destroy the supply base, which is going to be horrible for the Big Three automakers. What's the endgame here? Is it trying to get to a deal that works, or is it trying to destroy the Big Three automakers?"

He also worries that some of the union's rhetoric is vilifying the companies in a way that could drive away customers. "At the end of the day, if you paint them as the villain … why would I want to buy one of their vehicles? If they're the villains, I'll just go buy a Toyota. And that's not what you want."

Some suppliers warn that their layoffs could broaden over time. In a filing last week with the state of Michigan, Eagle Industries estimated it would have to lay off 60 workers but said that was "subject to change due to evolving business circumstances."

In another filing with the state, CIE Newcor estimated that it would need to lay off nearly 300 employees for about a month but said the duration depends how long the strike lasts.

LM Manufacturing — a joint venture that makes car seats for a striking Ford factory in Wayne, Mich. — has temporarily laid off 650 workers, according to Dave Neimiec, a spokesman for one of the joint venture's owners, Magna International.

At Chipotle, customers might soon have their orders built by robots

Intent is to help, not replace, workers, company official says

BY LAURA REILEY

Your Chipotle burrito will be rolled by a human, but its guts may soon be assembled by a robot.

The fast-casual chain on Tuesday announced a new automated digital "makeline" that uses machines to build bowls and salads to customer specifications. Human employees are then expected to incorporate the robot-assembled ingredients into burritos, tacos and quesadillas.

For now, the new system — developed in collaboration with Hyphen, a kitchen technology company — is being tested at the Chipotle Cultivate Center in Irvine, Calif. But the company expects the technology will be live in restaurants in upcoming months, rolled out slowly starting with locations in Southern California.

Black beans or pinto; carnitas or chicken al pastor? The customer keys in a digital order, a bowl shoots down, and the ingredients are dispensed from above.

Curt Garner, Chipotle's chief customer and technology officer, said the goal is not to replace workers but to meet the rising demands of serving customers who order online in addition to those who come into the store. Digital sales in 2022 were $3 billion, Garner said, about 38 percent of sales overall. "We're operating like two restaurants out of one," he said.

As recently as 2016, he said, orders placed outside the building were done by fax. Customers would show up in the physical queue at the restaurant to pick up — a process that often disrupted the flow of in-person ordering. The chain started assembling remotely placed orders in the back of the restaurant. In this new system, robots will be part of that separate, backroom assembly line.

In-person customers want different things than digital customers, he said. They want to chat, ask for a bit less of this, a titch more of that, while "digital kitchen customers want to make sure an order is ready quickly and is accurate," Garner said.

The shift is part of Chipotle's foray into "cobotics" — collaborative robots that work with rather than replace humans. The quick-serve chain has dabbled in robotics before, debuting a robotic "Autocado" this year that cuts, cores and peels avocados to be turned into guacamole, and prototyping a robot called Chippy last year that fries and seasons fresh tortilla chips.

Garner insists the innovations are meant to help human employees with onerous tasks. The company consulted with workers to determine the things best outsourced to robots and artificial intelligence, he said.

But the shift comes as concern is rising over the effect of automation on job security, and as fast-food workers nationally demand higher wages and better working conditions. Workers seldom get a say in what jobs are being automated or a cut of the profits from work becoming more efficient, said Ben Reynolds, secretary-treasurer of Restaurant Workers United, a national union.

"If we're not organized, it's easy for owners to use automation to undercut our work and lay people off. It doesn't have to be like this," he said. "When ports were introducing new technologies in the 1970s, union longshoremen negotiated to make sure they also benefited from those changes. That's why ILWU dockworkers are making six figures today."

Bethany Khan, communications director of Unite Here's Culinary Union in Las Vegas, which has authorized a strike and is set to strike any time, said that since 2018, the union's contracts have contained clear goals regarding technology and automation, including giving employees advance notice before implementing new technology, employees' right to privacy from tracking technology, and severance packages if workers are laid off due to the introduction of technology.

"We know that every day, technology is evolving, and we want to make sure workers have a future in whatever technology brings," Khan said. "We're committed to workers not being left behind."

For now, at least, Chipotle's Chippy, Autocado and other "cobotic" efforts will work alongside their human co-workers to get orders filled.

STEVEN SENNE/AP

Chipotle is testing its new automated digital "makeline" and expects the technology to be live in restaurants in coming months.

DIGEST

LABOR

General Motors makes counteroffer to UAW

General Motors has put a new counteroffer to the United Auto Workers on the table, the automaker said Thursday, as the union said it would have a new strike announcement Friday.

"We can confirm that we provided a counter offer to the UAW's most recent proposal — our sixth since the start of negotiations," GM spokesperson David Barnas said in a statement. "We believe we have a compelling offer that would reward our team members and allow GM to succeed and thrive into the future."

The company did not detail its latest proposal.

News of the offer being presented comes as the UAW announced Thursday it planned to have another "stand up announcement" on social media at 2 p.m. Friday. UAW President Shawn Fain has been announcing expansions of a strike that began Sept. 15 during Facebook Live events on Fridays for the past few weeks.

Separately, workers represented by the UAW in talks with Volvo Group-owned Mack Trucks will receive a 19 percent pay hike over five years, according to a summary of the tentative agreement seen by Reuters.

— From news services

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Jobless claims tick up; mortgage rates rise

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose moderately last week, while layoffs declined in September, pointing to still-tight labor market conditions at the end of the third quarter.

Initial claims for jobless benefits increased by 2,000, to a seasonally adjusted 207,000, for the week that ended Sept. 30, the Labor Department said. Continuing claims, by people who have already received at least one week of aid, slipped 1,000 to 1.66 million during the week ending Sept. 23.

A separate report Thursday from global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas showed U.S. companies announced 47,457 job cuts in September. That's down 37 percent from August, but up 58 percent compared to the same period last year.

The economy's prospects during the last quarter were bolstered by other data Thursday showing the trade deficit shrinking to its smallest in nearly three years in August, with exports of capital goods hitting a record high. The economy has so far weathered hefty interest-rate increases from the Federal Reserve to cool demand. That resilience raises the risk of the U.S. central bank hiking rates again by year's end.

Meanwhile, mortgage rates rose for a fourth straight week, reaching their highest level since December 2000. The average for a 30-year fixed loan was 7.49 percent, up from 7.31 percent last week, Freddie Mac said in a statement Thursday. Borrowing costs have topped 7 percent since mid-August, a streak that helped send applications for home-purchase loans to a 28-year low.

— From news services

AUTO INDUSTRY

Hyundai, Kia to adopt Tesla charging ports

Hyundai and Kia said Thursday that they will adopt Tesla's electric vehicle charging technology in the United States.

Joining global peers including Ford, General Motors and Nissan in adopting Tesla's North American Charging Standard (NACS), Hyundai's and Kia's moves take Tesla's superchargers closer to becoming the industry standard, at the expense of the rival Combined Charging System (CCS).

New Hyundai and Kia EVs will come with a NACS port starting in the fourth quarter of 2024 in the United States, the companies said.

The automakers also said they would offer adapters to owners of existing and future Hyundai and Kia EVs with the current CCS in the first quarter of 2025, giving them access to Tesla's NACS network.

— Reuters

ALSO IN BUSINESS

The Canadian government, under political pressure to tackle high inflation, said Thursday that the country's five major grocery chains had made an initial commitment to help stabilize food prices. Innovation Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said Canadians would soon see discounts on a number of food products, as well as price freezes and price-matching campaigns. The five chains — Metro, Loblaws, Sobeys, Walmart and Costco — represent 80 percent of the Canadian market.

Amazon's and Microsoft's cloud services face an investigation by Britain's antitrust watchdog over concerns the U.S. firms may be abusing their market power. The Competition and Markets Authority said Thursday it's opening a market investigation into the supply of public cloud infrastructure in Britain. The probe follows a year-long study from telecommunications regulator Ofcom that found evidence that major players such as Amazon and Microsoft made it hard for customers to use multiple suppliers or switch. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post, and interim CEO Patty Stonesifer sits on Amazon's board.)

— From news services

HELP DESK

Try these tips to fight age discrimination in a job search

BY DANIELLE ABRIL

ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Ever feel like you're getting rejected for jobs because of your age?

As upsetting as it is, chances are your age — whether you're younger or older — has or will be used against you during your career at some point.

"Sometime in your life, someone with decision-making power will size you up based on your age, and you will be negatively impacted," said Michael North, an assistant professor at New York University's Stern School of Business, who has studied ageism in the workplace. "Age discrimination seems to be the most socially condoned prejudice."

For jobseekers who feel like they're getting an unfair shake due to their age, finding recourse can be a challenge. It's hard to know and prove whether age has played a role in the decision-making process — and if you think it might have, was it intentional or not? Additionally, not all workers are protected by laws that aim to prevent age discrimination in employment (federal laws, for example, protect people 40 and older). So what can you do to ensure your age won't dampen your chances of landing your next job?

Combat the narrative associated with negative stereotypes, workplace experts say. Here are some ways to fight age stigma while on the job hunt.

Emphasize flexibility and willingness to learn

Both younger and older candidates face a similar stigma: the idea that they don't want to change or have stubborn demands. Workplace experts say candidates can combat this by showing what efforts they've made to quickly pick up new skills and show enthusiasm for future learning.

That might mean enrolling in extra training courses, getting new certifications and highlighting them in your résumé or interview, North said. Younger workers may need to show that they have taken proactive measures to learn new job skills they may lack. Older workers may want to show that they can keep up with fast-paced environments and various tech tools.

"Show your tech acumen and use of relevant apps for that role," said Teresa Freeman, a career coach, who has previously worked as a human resources executive for companies including Amazon, Deloitte and PwC.

Show respect

You may have decades of experience under your belt or just a couple of years. Either way, as a candidate, you're expected to learn about how a company currently operates. That means showing respect for the company's DNA, experts said.

For younger people, understand what you bring to the table while paying tribute to the company's history and previous success. "Don't go into every interview calling yourself a disrupter," North said. "Not all older generations will be open to that."

For older workers, show your excitement and humility — energy that's often associated with younger workers.

Choose experience over years

Your years on the job may not always work in your favor. Too many may signal negative older worker stereotypes and too little may convey a lack of knowledge or readiness.

Removing dates from jobs and graduations on your résumé might help you avoid not only the stigma a human reviewer might make but also machines making automatic rejections, said Aaron Wallen, senior lecturer at Columbia University's School of Professional Studies. If an artificial intelligence system has concluded that the most successful candidates are typically younger or older than you, that may be a factor in whether your résumé makes it out of the stack.

"If you don't have to input this information, don't volunteer it," he said, adding that phrases like 40-plus years of experience also might not be best.

Instead, stick to your skills and experiences. If you lack experience in one area, show how your skills are transferrable for this specific job. You can also be clear about any kind of transition, like a career change, or gap in employment by placing it in an executive summary section at the top of your résumé, Freeman said. Quantify your previous work's impact with numbers or qualify it by explaining how it affected the results.

Watch your language

Similar to removing dates, avoid using phrases that may lead to age-based stereotypes. Instead, candidates should think about the narrative they're trying to create and refer to stories and accomplishments that support it.

Older workers should emphasize action words and highlight their energy, ability to innovate and stay current. Stay away from phrases like, "You may not remember this," "I'm old enough to be your parent" or "I may be dating myself," said Freeman. Try to tell recent stories, and if you're using one from decades ago, explain how it could apply to today's work.

Younger workers should stay away from trendy slang that older colleagues might not understand or appreciate.

Don't catfish

One of the worst things you can do during your job hunt is try to be someone you're not. So don't use decades-old headshots or those that have been heavily edited to make you look different. Wear professional attire, but don't try to go outside your age group or adopt different slang to appear younger or older, Wallen said.

Show your soft skills

Use every interview as a chance to build rapport because relationships go a long way, experts said.

This gives young people the chance to show off social skills, eye contact and preview how you might act in a collegial or client-facing interaction, said Freeman. And for both older and younger workers, a good interview may provide connections for other opportunities even if you don't land the job. If you're applying to multiple jobs, don't let interview fatigue decrease your energy or preparation for the next.

Be confident

It's a simple piece of advice but often hard to follow. When applying or interviewing for a job, show confidence but be careful not to come across as cocky — a stereotype both young and older workers face. Younger workers might also have to combat the idea that they are self-centered and entitled.

"There's a fine line between a know-it-all and demonstrating confidence," Wallen said. "It's the ability to show interest in the other and be authentic."

Seek feedback

Every generation has something to learn from another. So seek feedback from people of various ages and industries during your application process.

You can start by recording yourself answering questions to fix unintentional fidgets, bad posture, filler words or eye contact, Wallen said. Then broaden it to include mock interviews with others outside your age group who can give you their feedback. You may also want to have them review your résumé or cover letter.

"If you have just your own voice and view without a gut check, you could be missing out," Freeman said.

The Washington Post | LIVE

Rajiv J. Shah

President, The Rockefeller Foundation
Author, "Big Bets"

Monday, Oct. 9 at 1:00 p.m.

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LISTEN WHEREVER PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE.

Ex-FTX insider testifies about missing $8 billion

Yedidia said he resigned when he learned about misuse of users' funds

BY TORY NEWMYER AND ELI TAN

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors are starting to peel away at the byzantine operations they say allowed Sam Bankman-Fried to steal billions of dollars from the customers of his cryptocurrency business, as the criminal fraud prosecution of the former executive entered its third day in a downtown Manhattan courtroom.

The government focused on the discovery by a close friend of Bankman-Fried's that his hedge fund, Alameda Research, was taking in billions of dollars from the customers of his crypto trading platform, FTX.

Adam Yedidia, a college friend of Bankman-Fried who went to work for FTX as a software developer, said he later resigned when he learned Alameda was using those customer funds to pay back its creditors.

"What Alameda did seemed like a flagrantly wrong thing to have done," Yedidia told the court.

Jurors also heard Gary Wang, FTX's former chief technology officer, say he committed financial crimes at the company, along with Bankman-Fried and two other top executives. Wang pleaded guilty in December to committing wire fraud, securities fraud and commodities fraud, and he is cooperating with the prosecution.

Wang told jurors that at Bankman-Fried's direction, he helped give Alameda the ability to withdraw "unlimited funds" from FTX and lied about it to the public. His testimony, including cross-examination by the defense, is expected to continue Friday.

For Yedidia's part, the revelation that something was amiss at the company was months in the making. He said he first learned Alameda was holding such a vast amount of FTX customer funds in the summer of 2022, after Bankman-Fried assigned him to fix a bug in the company's code.

The glitch was causing the company's internal accounting to overstate the amount the hedge fund owed back to FTX customers. In resolving it, Yedidia found Alameda owed FTX customers $8 billion. "It was a very large debt, and I wanted to be sure Alameda could repay it," Yedidia said.

Concerned, he questioned Bankman-Fried about the matter on a paddle tennis court on the grounds of the luxury real estate complex where they shared a penthouse apartment with other top executives. Bankman-Fried, looking "worried," told Yedidia: "We were bulletproof last year" but weren't anymore. It would take the company six months to three years to recover, Bankman-Fried added.

MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

Former FTX software developer Adam Yedidia leaves after testifying during the trial of co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried in Manhattan on Wednesday. He said he first learned Alameda Research was holding large sums of FTX customer's funds in the summer of 2022.

Yedidia said he didn't press further, figuring Bankman-Fried and other top executives had the matter in hand. He stayed at the company for several more months, even when rumors of FTX's insolvency prompted a customer run on its deposits in early November of that year. Hearing that other executives were quitting, he reassured Bankman-Fried in a Signal message. "I said, 'I love you Sam. I'm not going anywhere. Don't worry,'" Yedidia said.

He resigned days later when he learned Alameda had misspent FTX customer funds, he added.

Defense lawyers noted Yedidia believed in the future of the company while he worked there, investing a $6 million cash bonus he received in late 2021 into FTX shares. Under further questioning from prosecutors, he said that belief changed as the company collapsed and he learned that "FTX defrauded all of its customers."

At one point during Wang's testimony, Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicolas Roos asked how the name Alameda Research came to be. Wang said Bankman-Fried chose it to sound professional enough for the company to secure a bank account and office space.

"If we named our company like, S--tcoin Daytraders Inc., they'd probably just reject us," Bankman-Fried said in a 2021 sound bite played for the courtroom.

The testimony, paired with a Thursday report by the Wall Street Journal, paints the clearest picture yet of the moments when cracks appeared in Bankman-Fried's crypto empire in the months before FTX's bankruptcy — and how his inner circle of executives responded.

The Journal's report found that employees of the LedgerX, a crypto-derivatives exchange that FTX had acquired the previous year, realized as early as May 2022 that there was a "back door" in Alameda's code that allowed it to withdraw customer funds from FTX and carry a negative balance of up to $65 billion. An employee of LedgerX brought the issue to FTX leadership and was later fired, according to the report, which also alleged that potential whistleblowers who knew of the arrangement were paid to keep quiet.

Tan reported from Washington.

A face-to-face meeting of Biden and Xi is taking shape

Leaders will look to reset relations at Calif. APEC summit in Nov.

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA

The White House has begun making plans for a November meeting in San Francisco between President Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping — an attempt to stabilize the relationship between the world's two most powerful countries, according to senior administration officials.

"It's pretty firm" there will be a meeting, said one administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the engagement has not yet been announced formally. "We're beginning the process" of planning, the official said.

A second senior administration official said that Biden looks forward to meeting Xi, but that "nothing has been confirmed yet."

Plans will firm up after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi comes to Washington in the coming weeks, administration officials said.

The in-person meeting would be the first between the leaders of the two largest economies since they met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, last November. There, both presidents emphasized the importance of face-to-face diplomacy and expressed hope they could get U.S.-China relations back on track.

But after Biden ordered the shoot-down of a Chinese spy balloon that traveled over the continental United States in February, ties frayed further.

In an effort to re-engage, four top Biden administration officials have traveled in recent months to Beijing, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and climate envoy John F. Kerry.

But communications between top American military officials and their counterparts in Beijing remain frozen despite repeated overtures by the American side. In March, Xi accused Washington of leading an effort by the West to implement "containment, encirclement and suppression of China" to slow its development.

And last month, China's main spy agency, the Ministry of State Security, indicated in a cryptic and unusual post on its WeChat social media page that prospects for a Xi-Biden summit would depend on the United States "show[ing] enough sincerity." The security agency does not usually comment publicly, especially on foreign policy.

Biden, for his part, has made comments — off the cuff at fundraisers or in brief exchanges with reporters — that have irked Beijing.

In June, at a fundraiser, he called Xi a "dictator" who was unaware of the spy balloon and said that the Chinese president was "very embarrassed" when it got shot down. He also noted China was having "real economic difficulties."

Nonetheless, Biden has repeatedly indicated over the past several months that he was expecting to meet with Xi — "sometime in the future, in the near term," he said at a news conference in June. Last month, Xi skipped the G-20 leadership summit in New Delhi, leading Biden to express disappointment. But, he added, "I am going to get to see him."

In remarks to the U.N. General Assembly in New York last month, he emphasized his desire to "responsibly manage the competition" between the two countries to avoid conflict. "We are for de-risking," he said, "not decoupling with China."

China watchers have looked to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco as the setting for the meeting. For Xi to be a no-show, coming on the heels of his G-20 absence and ducking out of a speech at a summit in August, would be a poor look, said Danny Russel, a former White House Asia aide in the Obama administration. "People will jump to the conclusion that the domestic economic and political problems are too great," he said. "There's a cost to him not going."

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Biden administration officials are proceeding with plans for a meeting at APEC. The White House, however, has decided it will bar Hong Kong's top government official, John Lee, from attending. Lee and 10 other Hong Kong and Chinese officials were sanctioned by Washington in 2020 after implementing a repressive national security law, imposed by officials in Beijing.

Russel, now vice president for international security and diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said the one thing both leaders have in common is a desire to stabilize ties and avoid "some international crisis or brawl" that could interfere with their domestic agendas. "But neither one of them is open to making substantial concessions," he said. "So whatever calming effect a meeting will have will be tactical and temporary."

Beijing has been pressing the United States to ease export controls on key technologies such as advanced semiconductors. Raimondo in August said she rebuffed an appeal by Chinese officials to rescind such controls, arguing that they were imposed for national security reasons. Instead, they agreed to set up a new commercial issues working group as a forum to engage on trade and investment matters.

Other expected areas of discussion between the two leaders are China's crackdown on foreign companies following an expansion of a counterespionage law and the release of detained Americans.

Beyond differences over protectionist economic policies, America's opioid crisis is a likely subject of tension between the two leaders. Most fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45, is made in Mexico using chemicals from China.

Olivier Knox contributed to this report.

Elon Musk strips news headlines from X, posing challenge for media sites

The change removes crucial context from publishers about articles

BY LEO SANDS

X, the site formerly known as Twitter, has removed automatically generated headlines from links to external websites, including news articles, the latest change introduced by owner Elon Musk as he seeks to remold the social media company and reduce traffic to other sites.

Under the new format, posts linking to third-party news stories or websites automatically load those articles' lead images in preview tiles along with their web domains — but with no headlines, depriving readers of key context from the publishers about their articles, according to a review by The Washington Post on Thursday. The change also appeared to affect shared links to non-news websites, although it did not affect paid advertisements, which still loaded with headlines, The Post's review found.

X did not immediately respond to a request for comment early Thursday.

The change comes amid a wider push by X to discourage users from clicking on external links, including links leading to news sites. "Our algorithm tries to optimize time spent on X, so links don't get as much attention, because there is less time spent if people click away," Musk said in a tweet Tuesday.

In response to earlier reports that X was testing the removal of headlines from article previews, Musk said that the revised format should be considered an aesthetic improvement. "This is coming from me directly," he tweeted in August.

Journalism professor Karin Wahl-Jorgensen at Cardiff University was skeptical about Musk's claim that the change was driven by aesthetic considerations. She said that the new format could be part of a broader attempt by Musk to undermine news organizations' reach on the social media platform.

"Although Elon Musk has framed this as a decision informed by aesthetic considerations, it can be seen as part of a larger trend toward making Twitter/X more difficult for news organizations to use," she wrote in an email Thursday. "It is likely to have a significant adverse impact on click-through rates, because platform users will no longer have the necessary context to understand the content of links — and therefore little reason to click on them."

Wahl-Jorgensen suggested that the change also could end up reducing user engagement on X itself, as well as on other news sites. "It's likely to hurt the company's bottom line by reducing the amount of relevant and engaging content on the platform."

CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

The logo of the social media platform formerly called Twitter is seen at the firm's headquarters in San Francisco in July. Elon Musk has made dramatic changes at the company since buying it last October.

Musk has repeatedly framed traditional news media websites as direct competitors to X, a stance that contrasts with the platform's previous model — where links to news media sites were accompanied by "verified" badges to shore up trust in their content. In April, the platform removed the verification badges from the accounts of some news sites that refused to pay $1,000 a month for it, continuing Musk's years-long grudge against journalists who have reported critically on him.

In August, an analysis by The Post found that X briefly throttled traffic to third-party news sites, including the New York Times and Reuters, as well as the rival social media sites Facebook, Instagram, BlueSky and Substack. Users who clicked links to any of the affected websites were required to wait about five seconds before the pages loaded, according to tests conducted by The Post, potentially reducing traffic and ad revenue for the external sites. Links to other sites — including The Post's — loaded in a second or less, suggesting the throttling targeted specific sites.

It was unclear on Thursday what the financial impact of X's latest changes would be to news media sites, which can earn money from ad revenue generated by traffic.

According to a 2023 study by Oxford University's Reuters Institute, the platform was the third-most-frequently used social media site in the United States for news, trailing Facebook and YouTube. A survey conducted by YouGov in January and February found that 14 percent of U.S. news consumers used Twitter for the purpose in comparison with 29 percent who used Facebook and 24 percent who used YouTube.

The change in article previews comes as Musk rolls back other policies that had been put in place to reduce the spread of misinformation and disinformation on the site, welcoming back thousands of banned accounts while laying off thousands of contractors the company had employed to monitor for slurs and threats, and triggering an increase in digital harassment against religious and ethnic minorities around the world on the platform.

Jeremy B. Merrill and Drew Harwell contributed to this report.

FRIDAY OPINION

MARC A. THIESSEN

The disaster at the U.S. border is hurting Ukraine

It has become a constant refrain on the anti-Ukraine right: President Biden cares more about securing Ukraine's border than our own.

Here's the problem: They're not wrong.

Biden has enabled the worst border crisis in American history. In the 2021 fiscal year, officials reported more than 1.7 million encounters at the southern border, which was a record . . . until fiscal 2022, when it rose to more than 2.378 million. The numbers for fiscal 2023 are just in, and the record was broken yet again — reportedly reaching 2.388 million encounters.

Since September 2021, at least 260 migrants on the terrorism watch list have been arrested trying to cross the border, while more than 1.5 million known "got aways"— migrants known to have evaded our Border Patrol agents — have slipped into the country. And last year alone, more than 106,000 Americans died of an overdose, many of them involving deadly fentanyl coming across the border. That's the equivalent of an airliner crashing every single day.

The situation is so dire that even Democrats are calling Biden out, including New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, who declared, "We want them to have a limit on who can come across the border. It is too open right now. People coming from all over the world are finding their way through, simply saying they need asylum."

This is a crisis of choice. The same laws are on the books today that were there when Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama secured the border. Recall how the left excoriated Obama as the "deporter in chief" because he sent home a record 3 million illegal migrants. Deportations have dropped dramatically under Biden, and he has released more than 2 million migrants into the United States. During Obama's presidency, prosecutions for illegal entry and illegal reentry reached then-record levels. Under Biden, they have reached record lows. If Biden wanted, he could enforce the laws on the books, just as Obama did. He is choosing not to do so.

America is a superpower. We can secure our borders and also lead on the world stage. But Biden's failure to do the former is feeding the forces of both nativism and isolationism on the right.

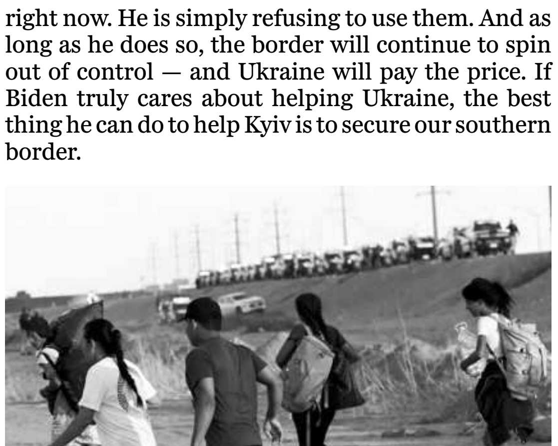
Those choices are now having ripple effects across the Atlantic. As the border spins out of control, GOP support for Ukraine is slipping. Last week, 117 House Republicans voted against a supplemental Ukraine aid bill — more than half the GOP conference. This includes 51 who changed their votes from July, when two-thirds of House Republicans voted against Rep. Matt Gaetz's (R-Fla.) amendment prohibiting security assistance for Ukraine. And Senate Republicans last week refused to include Ukraine funding in the continuing resolution to keep the government open.

Let's be clear: This is a false choice. America is a superpower. We can secure our borders and also lead on the world stage. But Biden's failure to do the former is feeding the forces of both nativism and isolationism on the right — giving them ammunition to argue against continued U.S. leadership in support of Ukraine.

This is why Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), one of Ukraine's staunchest supporters in Congress, says Senate Republicans will pair legislation to provide Ukraine with $60 billion to $70 billion in military aid — enough to get it through the next fighting season — with a major effort to secure the border. "I think there's Democratic support for major border security reform. But we have to attach it to Ukraine," Graham said on "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "The key to Ukraine funding is to deal with a broken border. . . . To my Democratic colleagues, you need to take border security seriously."

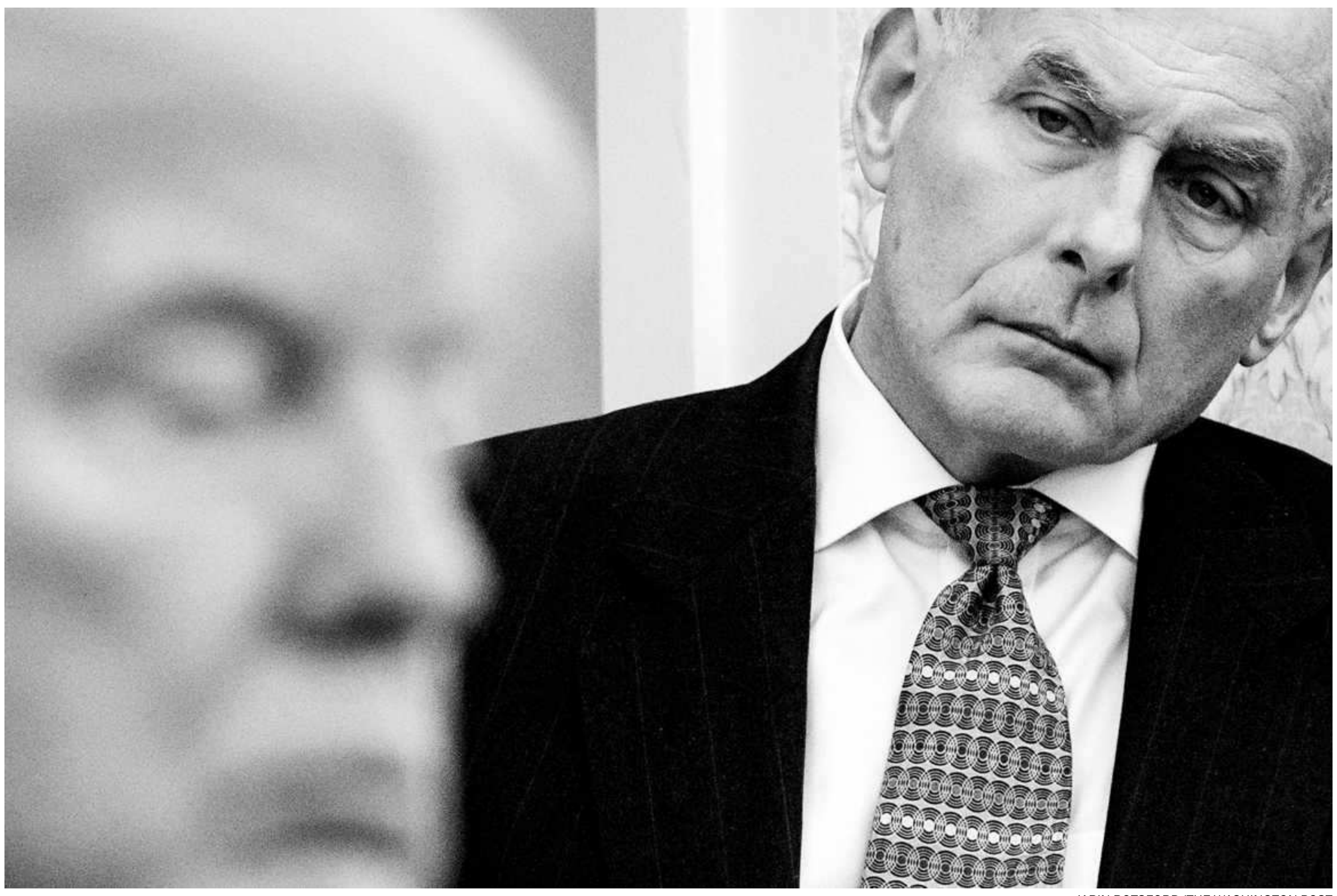
Before his ouster, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy signaled support for such an approach. "I support being able to make sure Ukraine has the weapons that they need," he said Sunday. "But I firmly support the [southern U.S.] border first. So, we've got to find a way that we can do this together." It remains to be seen whether his successor will be equally committed to pairing Ukraine aid with border security, and whether the small minority of Republicans who forced McCarthy out would try to block it.

But ultimately, the border security problem is not on Capitol Hill; it's in the White House. Even if Congress approves more money for the border, it won't make a difference if Biden won't enforce the law. He has the resources and authorities he needs right now. He is simply refusing to use them. And as long as he does so, the border will continue to spin out of control — and Ukraine will pay the price. If Biden truly cares about helping Ukraine, the best thing he can do to help Kyiv is to secure our southern border.



JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

Migrants try to evade Mexican border agents in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, on Tuesday.



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly and President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Feb. 2, 2018.

MAX BOOT

'Trump's generals' should warn voters that he is unfit to serve

Three years ago, Atlantic Editor in Chief Jeffrey Goldberg wrote that President Donald Trump had referred to soldiers killed in battle as "suckers" and "losers." Trump immediately called it a "fake story" and said it was a "disgrace" that the magazine was allowed to publish it. This week, John F. Kelly, Trump's longest-serving White House chief of staff, confirmed the accuracy of that article, as well as that of a book by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser that quoted Trump complaining that being in the presence of military amputees "doesn't look good for me."

In a statement released to CNN, Kelly, a retired Marine general who lost his own son in combat in Afghanistan, not only wrote of Trump's disdain for wounded and fallen veterans but also described Trump as "a person that has no idea what America stands for and has no idea what America is all about. . . . A person that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law."

Kelly concluded: "There is nothing more that can be said. God help us."

I'm glad Kelly has finally spoken out publicly, but I respectfully disagree with his final point. With Trump leading the Republican primary field by a large margin, there is a lot more that needs to be said — and Kelly is one of the people who needs to say it. He needs to speak out in a much more public and sustained way about the unique threat Trump poses to American democracy, and he needs to be joined in doing so by two other retired generals who also served in the upper echelons of the Trump administration: former defense secretary Jim Mattis and former national security adviser H.R. McMaster.

All three men, who were often referred to as "Trump's generals" or "the adults in the room," have made clear that they hold Trump in well-justified disdain.

Mattis announced his resignation as defense secretary in 2018 by releasing a letter that noted Trump did not share his views about "treating allies with respect" and was not "clear-eyed about both malign actors and strategic competitors" — a reference, presumably, to Trump's well-known affinity for dictators Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un.

In June 2020, at the height of the protests over the murder of George Floyd, Trump marched through Washington's Lafayette Square, which had been cleared of peaceful protesters, for a bizarre photo op with Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mattis subsequently issued a statement in which he wrote: "Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people — does not even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us. . . . We must reject and hold accountable those in office who would make a mockery of our Constitution."

McMaster has been a bit more circumspect, but he has condemned Trump for "aiding and abetting Putin's efforts" to undermine U.S. democracy and for telling the Proud Boys militia to "stand back and stand by": "No leader," McMaster said, "should encourage any group that is based on a narrow identity that aims to supersede our identity as Americans."

The danger Trump poses to our democracy might not matter to his cult followers — for many of them, it's a selling point — but it's a different matter when it comes to general-election voters who remain up for grabs. With Trump and President Biden essentially tied in head-to-head matchups, the Wall Street Journal's polling shows that 26 percent of the electorate remains undecided between the two candidates, hard as that might be to believe. It is those voters who will determine the fate of American democracy, and many of them don't follow the news closely. Almost none of them, I'm sure, have heard of Kelly's latest statement denouncing Trump.

Kelly, Mattis and McMaster — joined, ideally, by other disaffected Trump appointees, such as former national security adviser John Bolton, former defense secretary Mark T. Esper and former attorney general William P. Barr — need to mount an "Unfit to Serve" tour targeting early-primary states and general-election swing states. They need to spend every free minute over the next year alerting undecided voters to the danger of electing Trump again — before it's too late.

It would be unprecedented for such high-level appointees to warn that the president they served poses a danger to U.S. democracy. Kelly, Mattis and McMaster, as generals who have devoted their lives to serving their country, have particular standing to make the case in a way that might make apathetic voters take notice. Simply issuing written statements is not enough: They need to go on TV and on the stump to get the message out.

"It's pretty clear in the focus groups that when swing voters backslide toward Trump, it's because they're hazy on what they hate about him and are frustrated with the economy," Sarah Longwell, an anti-Trump Republican strategist, told me. "A stark reminder from respected generals can remind swing voters why their hesitations about Biden pale in comparison to their fears of putting Trump back in the White House."

Knowing Kelly, Mattis and McMaster as I do, I am sure all three of them will resist this advice for a variety of reasons, the most important being that they have been inculcated with the ethos that the military must remain resolutely apolitical. This is a noble impulse, but they served Trump in political, not military, posts (even if McMaster remained on active duty). They are in a different category from the two chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Trump administration — Gens. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. and Mark A. Milley — who plainly share the trio's concerns about Trump's unfitness to serve.

It would indeed be inappropriate for Dunford or Milley to campaign against Trump. But it would not only be appropriate for Kelly, Mattis and McMaster to do so — it is imperative that they do so. This would be one last duty they could perform for the country they love, to save us from a candidate whom Milley, in his retirement ceremony last month, rightly referred to as a "wannabe dictator."

Pope Francis needs to be fearless on China

BY MIKE GALLAGHER

"We want God!" chanted the hundreds of thousands gathered to see Karol Wojtyla, now Pope Saint John Paul II, celebrate Mass near Krakow, Poland, in June 1979. Poland was entering its 32nd year of communist rule, and the ground was shifting.

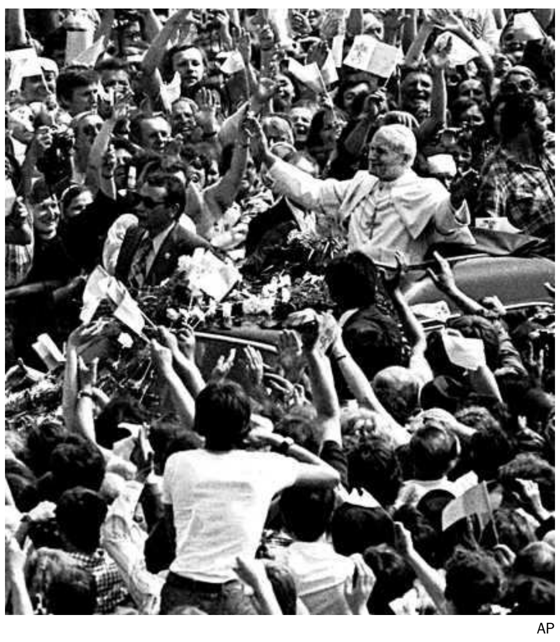
John Paul's exhortation to the faithful to live in truth and stand against aggression helped end the regime. He often said these three words: Be not afraid.

As the Synod of Bishops meets at the Vatican this week to debate and advise the pontiff, those gathered should heed John Paul's fearless example in their dealings with the Chinese Communist Party. This is not the course the Catholic Church appears to be charting.

Last month, in a half-empty room in Mongolia, the current pope sent a message to a different tyrant. It should have been another chance for the church to speak truth to communist oppression. But instead of courage, Pope Francis chose what looks more like its opposite.

Without setting foot inside the People's Republic of China, Francis called on Catholics in the country to be "good Christians and good citizens," a phrase that left far too much unsaid. Francis did not mention that the Chinese government is engaged in religious oppression: a genocide against Uyghurs, a majority of whom are Muslim, in Xinjiang, and cultural atrocities in Tibet. He did not call for the release of Jimmy Lai, the Catholic Hong Kong publisher persecuted for his support of democracy. He did not ask for the exoneration of Hong Kong's 91-year-old Cardinal Joseph Zen, arrested for challenging the CCP.

John Paul understood that Soviet communism preached a false gospel that demanded acceptance without question and to have its diktats applied without exception. To maintain their stranglehold, Soviet leaders sowed envy, suspicion and paranoia. Fearing their own people, they often turned to repression.



AP

Pope John Paul II stands in an open car as he greets a cheering crowd on June 4, 1979, in Czestochowa, Poland.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, too, is a totalitarian. His teachings must be accepted by all and are often imposed by force. Yet Francis has not called him to account.

Instead, the Vatican made a pact with the CCP. A 2018 deal gave the Communist Party the right to nominate Catholic bishops — in practice, tantamount to appointing them. Avowedly atheist party members in Beijing notify the Vatican of their choices; Francis provides a rubber stamp — a shocking way to decide upon the consecrated successors to Jesus' apostles. The agreement has been a disaster for other faiths in China. The CCP has leveraged the deal to pressure other religions to allow Beijing to appoint their leaders. Notably, it has bolstered its attempt to coerce Tibetan Buddhists into accepting its choice of successor to the Dalai Lama. The CCP has not even kept its side of the bargain. It has often given the Vatican mere days to "vet" candidates.

Earlier this year, the CCP notified Rome of the appointment of a new bishop of Shanghai after he had taken office. Yet the Vatican has extended the agreement twice, in 2020 and 2022. In so doing, Francis has in effect abetted Xi's decade-long project to sinicize religion in China. There have been reports, for example, of churches being forced to replace the Ten Commandments with quotes from Xi and of plans to rewrite the Bible to accord with socialist values.

Meanwhile, perhaps the largest internment of an ethno-religious minority since World War II is taking place in Xinjiang, and the CCP lies about it every day. If this does not deserve the church's condemnation, what does?

Francis has the power to confront Beijing. Truth, combined with the fearlessness to speak it, is fatal to every ideology of oppression. In 1979, John Paul knew that the power of communism in Poland lay not in Soviet tanks but in the acceptance of the lies that drove them. Destroy the lies, and China's tanks, too, will rust in fields. It's not too late. Francis can still follow John Paul's example. He cannot force the CCP to keep its word or to embrace Christianity. But he can challenge its values in front of the world. As a Catholic, I pray for Francis: Holy Father, be not afraid.

The writer, a Republican, represents Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District and is chairman of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST
A woman smokes a cigarette before work.

How the U.S. can solve its life expectancy problem

Providing incentives to promote better health is one place to start.

IF THERE'S one lesson from The Post's series on declining life expectancy in the United States, it's this simple maxim: Incentives influence behavior. That is true of a health-care system that does a much better job treating the very ill than it does stopping them from becoming so sick in the first place — and it is also true of the patients-to-be, who need encouragement to keep themselves healthy.

People in the United States, the Post series explains, are dying earlier — and earlier than people in similar countries. Among wealthy nations, ours was once about average; now, it is behind its peers and falling fast. This drop began before the coronavirus pandemic, after life expectancy peaked at 78.9 years in 2014, but covid-19 accentuated the crisis, killing dramatically more people per capita here than in similarly well-off countries. People in the highest-income areas of the United States do not live longer than people in the poorest parts of France. Meanwhile, people in the poorest parts of the United States live much shorter lives than those in the richer ones.

Some of the culprits are the usual suspects in mainstream discourse: opioids, for example, or guns. But public enemy No. 1 is chronic disease, from cancer to heart and liver ailments. The Post reported that these illnesses "erase more than twice as many years of life among people younger than 65 as all the overdoses, homicides, suicides and car accidents combined."

What is going wrong? The health-care system is the obvious place to start. Some blame the country's lack of universal coverage. Yet the Affordable Care Act enrolled more people in health plans, and life expectancy has still declined over the past 10 years.

The challenge is that building a healthier population doesn't pay as well as treating a sick one does. Pharmaceutical companies profit when they create drugs that treat disease, rather than the drivers of it. The more patients a private medical facility sees, the more money it makes. The country has a desperate dearth of primary-care doctors — but pays them a pittance compared with specialists.

Realigning these incentives isn't an easy job, or a cheap one; the evidence suggests it is a myth that better preventive care saves money. Fewer people dying young is still worth some spending. But also worthwhile is looking for ways to promote good health and save money, too.

The Post homed in on some of the poor, rural areas in which early deaths are endemic, examining three counties whose primary difference is the state in which they're located and, therefore, the laws to which they've been subject: Ashtabula in Ohio, Erie in Pennsylvania and Chautauqua in New York. All are nestled up against Lake Erie, and all have felt the effects of industrial jobs' steady disappearance.

Ashtabula residents were much more likely in 2020 than Erie or Chautauqua residents to meet early ends, in many cases owing to complications related to smoking or diabetes, as well as motor vehicle collisions. And it turns out that roughly 1 in 5 Ohioans will die before 65 — putting the state in the company of Ecuador and Slovakia. For years now, the state's Republican-led legislature has blocked tobacco tax increases. Ohio's highway safety laws are also less stringent than its neighbors'.

Around the country, meanwhile, processed food and drinks full of high-fructose corn syrup and other sugars abound. (Even a newly popular type of infant formula, The Post found, uses corn syrup solids as a sweetener.) Add warning labels, make these options more expensive to purchase or limit people's ability to buy junk food with government nutrition assistance — and people might be less likely to fall into harmful dietary habits.

The final piece to the United States' ongoing tragedy might be the most dispiriting: People begin to feel bad, it turns out, because they feel bad. Mental and emotional ailments take a physical toll on the body. Depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder can raise blood pressure or exacerbate diabetes. To make matters worse, those in difficult economic straits could end up working jobs that wear on their health — with long hours that render it hard to secure a doctor's appointment. That also means the groups already most marginalized are often hit the hardest.

Fixing the country's life-and-death problem, in this light, will require confronting some of its broadest and deepest-rooted issues. But focusing on incentives to promote better health, so that the tide moves with the project instead of against it, will provide a manageable place to begin.

Muffled protests

The UAE doesn't want its 'last human rights defender' discussed as it hosts COP28.

LATE NEXT month, delegates from around the world will converge on Expo City Dubai for the 28th annual United Nations climate conference, known as COP28. The United Arab Emirates, serving as host, calls itself "one of the most tolerant and diverse nations" and insists that its constitution protects human rights. But the treatment of a prisoner at Al-Sadr prison, about 36 miles from Expo City, reveals a different reality.

The prisoner is Ahmed Mansoor, and he has been held there, largely incommunicado, since 2017, serving a 10-year sentence on unjust charges that stem from peaceful dissent. He is the most prominent human rights activist in the UAE, a federation of seven semiautonomous emirates that allows little space for civil society and does not permit citizens the right to choose their government.

It appears that some UAE officials hope to mute any discussion of Mr. Mansoor's plight — and that of other political prisoners — during the summit. The London-based Center for Climate Reporting, a nonprofit journalism outfit, last month published details of leaked audio recordings of UAE officials at a meeting discussing how to prepare for COP28. According to the center, one of the UAE officials declared that conversations about human rights should be restricted to issues related to climate change, to ensure the summit is not used as a "free pass to throw everything at us."

But the Dubai summit is a good chance for the rest of the world to call attention to the miserable UAE human rights situation, starting with calling for Mr. Mansoor's release.

Mr. Mansoor, 53, is an engineer, poet and father of four who graduated in 1999 from the University of Colorado in Boulder, then returned to the UAE. According to Human Rights Watch, in 2006 he began working as a human rights activist, seeking the release of two people jailed for their comments online. He later campaigned against a draft media law that would have infringed on freedom of expression — and the draft was withdrawn. When Mr. Mansoor launched a petition calling for democratic reforms in 2011 — amid the Arab Spring — he was detained for six months. A judge sentenced him to three years in prison for "publicly insulting" the UAE authorities, but he was released after international protests.

Over the following years, he sometimes called himself the "last human rights defender left standing" in the UAE as others were arrested and imprisoned. The authorities cracked down on independent activists, judges, lawyers, academics, journalists, students and others for speaking out.

Mr. Mansoor was arrested again in 2017. For more than a year, his family and friends did not know where he was being held, and he had no access to a lawyer. The first news articles about the arrest suggested that Mr. Mansoor was being charged with publishing "false news" to "incite sectarian strife and hatred" and "harm the reputation of the state." But no charge sheet has ever been made public.

Human Rights Watch interviewed a source with direct knowledge of the case and reported Mr. Mansoor was tried in March 2018 on six counts. He was convicted on five, all related to his human rights advocacy, such as tweeting about injustices, participating in international human rights conferences online, and exchanging email and WhatsApp messages with representatives of Human Rights Watch and the Gulf Center for Human Rights. His trial and his appeal hearing were closed. He has complained repeatedly that he is denied basic necessities such as blankets and personal hygiene products, held in solitary confinement and permitted only infrequent contact with his family. He went on two hunger strikes in 2019.

At last year's summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, civil society protests were sharply restricted. It looks as though the UAE would like to muffle them again. The best way to push back is to bring up the "last human rights defender" at every opportunity.

PIA GUERRA AND IAN BOOTHBY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@washpost.com

Embrace transparency

For several weeks, I wondered why I was hearing what sounded like horse hooves clomping and wooden wheels creaking in the vicinity of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offices in Rockville.

The Sept. 29 Metro article "Officials criticize MCPS conduct" solved the mystery.

I was hearing the circling of wagons as MCPS senior managers scrambled to avoid accountability for the shocking alleged misbehavior of a senior administrator described in embarrassing detail in the Aug. 12 front-page article "A promoted principal. A trail of complaints."

MCPS officials promised to be open and transparent in addressing the allegations, but their responses bear the hallmarks of an entrenched bureaucracy trying to cover up serious errors. Yes, the Board of Education engaged the law firm Jackson Lewis to conduct a preliminary investigation. And its report has been delivered to the board. But the board refuses to release it.

Though some portions might be subject to redaction, it is outrageous that the Montgomery County Council president, education committee chair and county executive have not seen the full, unredacted report. The board president should have provided them copies immediately.

Board members and administrators should remember that school systems teach students important lessons in many ways, and not all of them involve essays, textbooks and calculators.

Lessons are also imparted in the choices students see MCPS making in choosing the teachers and administrators who serve as role models for the students.

Students know the story here, in all its painful details. If I were an MCPS student, I would want to understand how the alleged pattern of abuse went unaddressed over many years.

MCPS is an outstanding school system with a solid record of excellence, but something went wrong in this case. MCPS needs to own it honestly and publicly — and fix it.

Students will be watching.

Thomas Murphy, *Rockville*

A church's priorities

The Oct. 1 Metro article "New rights for child sex abuse victims in Md." reported that Baltimore Archbishop William Lori said of his archdiocese's Chapter 11 filing that if the archdiocese had not made this filing, the litigation for some child abuse victim settlements would have "exhausted" his church's insurance funds. But, sir, what is the fate of the Catholic Church's vast treasury compared with the cost of one person's destroyed childhood and adult life? Does your institution merit a healthy bank balance after the Catholic Church hid and promoted pedophile priests, moving them from one unsuspecting parish to another, allowing them to prey on still more vulnerable children, decade upon decade?

Nicholas Penning, *Arlington*

An integral part of care

As touched on in the Sept. 29 news article "The FDA moves to regulate more laboratory medical tests, but a battle looms," a laboratory-developed test (LDT) is a new or significantly modified test that is developed, validated and used within a single clinical laboratory that has achieved accreditation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. LDTs are developed in response to a specific patient care need because no Food and Drug Administration-approved test is commercially available, and LDTs are commonly used to diagnose rare conditions, such as inherited genetic abnormalities in children, a vulnerable population.

Laboratory scientists work with physicians to develop LDTs that generate vital clinical information for diagnosing diseases and managing patients.

Whether the FDA has the legal authority to create the rule it proposes is something Congress needs to resolve. And unfortunately — even if legal — the FDA's rule would create a dual, expensive and potentially contradictory regulatory environment for clinical laboratories, eliminating most labs' ability to perform LDTs and drastically limiting patients' access to critical laboratory test results.

As laboratorians, our No. 1 priority is delivering quality patient care, and we continue to advocate a balanced, evidence-based approach to regulating LDTs. We must identify what problems we are trying to fix and correct them without hindering scientific advancement or limiting patient access to these innovative, often lifesaving tests. We urge the FDA to join us in working within the current regulatory system to advance patient health by prioritizing health equity.

Octavia Peck Palmer, *Washington*
The writer is president of the Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine.

The Food and Drug Administration recently announced its intent to refine the safety and effectiveness of laboratory-developed tests that are now under Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services oversight. Though many of the FDA's proposed changes are understandable, there's a particular aspect that raises eyebrows: the FDA's proposed bias against smaller labs, especially those generating less than $150,000 annually. Such entities, which could draw on the expertise of a gifted surgeon or an adept clinical immunologist, often provide care that larger conglomerates miss. The FDA's directive leans toward sidelining these clinics, citing potential savings for the health-care system.

Why is a lab's revenue equated with its quality and value for the patient? Why not ask everyone to abide by the same rules? When has industry centralization equated to cost benefits? And, most pertinent, when did the FDA's jurisdiction extend to health-care pricing?

History has repeatedly shown the dangers of discrimination, whether it's based on size, minority status or other factors. If this becomes a precedent, who's to say which other small entities might be targeted next? The local food truck owner? The corner ice cream shop? Perhaps the solo physician running a clinic?

Oral Alpan, *McLean*
The writer is an immunologist.

Ukrainians will suffer

Regarding the Oct. 1 front-page article "Alarm grows in Kyiv, Washington as GOP House cuts Ukraine spigot":

A deadly dose of the full impact of Donald Trump on the world stage was evident in Congress's spending bill that passed without funding for Ukraine.

Republicans' fears of Mr. Trump have given unchecked power to a handful of conservative members who all but blackmailed the speaker and their colleagues with the threat to shut down the government if they didn't get their way. This time, the ramifications could cost thousands of lives because the funding they rejected keeps Ukrainian forces on the battlefield.

The bill played right into Russian President Vladimir Putin's hand as he patiently waits for the United States to walk away from its responsibilities to allies and the world. The images of the war are full of wretched destruction, twisted corpses and broken families. If these images, photographed in today's colors, were turned into black-and-white ones, they would appear to be from invasions from an earlier time when a power-mongering dictator marched across Europe.

It has been a bloody war, with about half a million dead or wounded. Now, because of Mr. Trump's influence, Mr. Putin might have a wider road to keep marching.

Dan Cohen, *Chevy Chase*

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JASON WILLICK

The Bowman scandal should set off alarms

A Jan. 6 case with underrated implications for American democracy is sitting without fanfare on the Supreme Court's docket. The court might be inclined to turn it down to avoid exposing itself to a partisan maelstrom. But an ongoing scandal involving Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) and a fire alarm on Capitol Hill shows the need for the justices to clean up lower courts' mess sooner rather than later.

The case, *Miller v. United States*, involves the breadth of an unlikely federal law that has been used to charge about 300 Capitol riot defendants. In the 2002 Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act, part of Sarbanes-Oxley, Congress provided that anyone who corruptly "alters, destroys, mutilates, or conceals a record, document, or other object" with intent to impair its "integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding" — or "otherwise obstructs" or "influences" a proceeding — can be imprisoned for up to 20 years. The background for the law was the Enron accounting scandal in 2001. It has been used since then to punish tampering with evidence in investigations.

But the Justice Department, apparently intent on imposing the maximum punishment on those who participated in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot, developed a new use of the law. Ignoring the bulk of the language about destroying evidence, it claimed that the law's "otherwise" clause can cover, for the first time, participation in a riot — even though, as the *Miller* petition notes, "every traditional criminal act on January 6 is covered by a more specific criminal statute, such as those proscribing trespass and assault."

Perhaps prosecutors thought this legal maneuver could be one-and-done, aimed at Jan. 6 participants and no one else, because of the singular gravity of that event.

Most, but not all, lower-court judges have blessed this prosecutorial innovation. One dissenting judge argued that the Justice Department's interpretation would make the law "implausibly broad," potentially sweeping in "large swaths of advocacy, lobbying, and protest."

Perhaps prosecutors thought this legal maneuver could be one-and-done, aimed at Jan. 6 participants and no one else, because of the singular gravity of that event. That's not how criminal law works, especially when partisan politics is involved. Now that the statute's traditional limits have been removed, it's no longer clear what sort of mischief and disruption in and around Capitol Hill is covered by the felony punishable by up to 20 years.

That brings us to Bowman. On Saturday, as Democrats tried to buy time to assess a last-minute government funding bill favored by GOP leadership, the congressman pulled a fire alarm in the Cannon House Office Building.

Accusing Bowman of deliberately setting off the alarm to obstruct House proceedings, Republicans have introduced resolutions to censure or expel him. Capitol Police are investigating, and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.), among others, has suggested he is guilty of the same obstruction offense as Jan. 6 rioters. Bowman and his defenders say he was rushing from the office building to the House floor to vote and that confusing signage led him to think the alarm would open a door.

Whether there's fire in the Bowman scandal or merely smoke (either is possible), the fierce debate around the incident shows how the flawed Jan. 6 precedent has raised the legal stakes when congressional disruptions occur. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) grilled Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco in April on why the Justice Department was not pursuing major felony charges against progressive protesters who allegedly tried to interrupt a House Judiciary Committee hearing.

A New Republic article this week argued that "Republicans are continuing their campaign to downplay the January 6 insurrection, this time by comparing the violent riot to Representative Jamaal Bowman pulling a fire alarm." It's true that some Republicans want to opportunistically equate the two events.

But that shouldn't be relevant to the Supreme Court one way or another. The point for the court is that the Justice Department has unleashed a prosecutorial power that Congress never clearly authorized but that could cover semiregular disturbances on Capitol Hill — and that partisans are champing at the bit to use against one another. Far from going away after the Jan. 6 cases are disposed of, the controversy over what constitutes obstruction in a polarized and chaotic Congress is likely to grow without judicial clarification.

The party out of power tends to see the greatest threat to democracy from political repression. The party in power tends to see the greatest threat to democracy from populist mayhem. If the Supreme Court doesn't correct prosecutors' application of this powerful law, the United States is more likely to experience a cycle of both.

DIEGO FEDELE/GETTY IMAGES

Firefighters clear an area destroyed Thursday in Hroza, Ukraine, where a Russian missile strike killed at least 50 people.

DAVID IGNATIUS

A hard choice lies ahead in Ukraine. The U.S. needs to follow its answer.

KYIV

On a day when a horrific Russian missile strike killed more than 50 people in a grocery store and cafe in eastern Ukraine, a visitor asks a top official in her sandbagged office here how her nation can survive this brutal, exhausting war.

After a long pause, First Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko answers: "We have no choice. It's an existential war. That's not just a word. For our partners, it's an option whether to help us or not. Even for Russia, the war is an option. But for us, there is no option."

Svyrydenko, who is also the economy minister, describes her plans to keep the country functioning through a long, enervating fight: loans to start businesses and draw refugees home; subsidies for farmers to clear mines from fields; war-risk insurance to encourage foreign investment. It might sound like a dream. But she notes that there is a backlog of 40,000 people applying for government mortgages to buy homes in this ravaged country.

The war in Ukraine is at once heartbreaking and uplifting. People can't disguise their fatigue or sorrow. The conflict is bleeding the country out. Ukrainians I spoke with during a four-day visit know they can't keep fighting forever seeking what might be an unachievable victory. But they won't stop, either.

"If you stop, nothing makes sense," says Mariia Mezentseva, a member of parliament from Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, near the Russian border. "We attended so many funerals in the last 18 months. At every one, I say with tears in my eyes: I will not stop until we reach our goal" of expelling Russians from all occupied territory.

"We have to be honest. People are tired," says Pavlo Klimkin, a former foreign minister, during a dinner at a restaurant here. "Last year, it was confidence, maybe overconfidence. Now, people feel it's a classic attrition war. . . . Nearly every family has someone killed. I would not try to sell the people an option that falls short of victory. Because it's personal."

As winter approaches, hopes that the counteroffensive that started this summer would bring a breakthrough haven't been realized. But Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal says that the fight will continue and that he is planning a budget for next year that assumes 12 more months of war. He spoke Wednesday in a meeting with a group from the McCain Institute, with which I traveled here this week. The group included representatives of companies such as Microsoft, Palantir, and drone-makers Fortem Technologies and Skydio that are aiding Ukraine.

Yet Ukrainians are now willing to talk more openly about ways to end the war than during my visits last year. At a dinner with a group of parliamentarians at a restaurant on the Dnieper River, there is a noisy debate about the best strategy for saving the country that is worth recounting at some length:

Oleksiy Goncharenko, an opposition member from embattled Odessa on the Black Sea, presses members of the ruling party of President Volodymyr Zelensky. "I am very concerned," he says. "Why? Take a look at the front. It doesn't change. For a year it doesn't change. But it was paid for by a huge amount of lives. . . . Ukraine can't fight 'as long as it takes.' That will be a catastrophe." Instead of battling, as Zelensky wants, to expel Russia from territories it has occupied since 2014, such as Crimea, he contends that Ukraine should seek security guarantees from NATO to protect the territory it holds.

But other parliamentarians loudly disagree. "Friends, we don't have a choice, they want to erase us," says Mezentseva. "The military way of defending our country is the only way possible." Olena Khomenko, who serves on the parliament's foreign policy committee, agrees that Ukraine must fight on until it regains sovereignty in all its 1991, post-Soviet territory. "We can't give up on Crimea," she insists.

Gershenko is almost shouting as he responds: "We all want everything. But this is the real world, and we must make decisions from real options. We don't have unlimited time, and we don't have unlimited people."

The next day, Ukrainian defense officials describe what they see as the abiding reality on the battlefield. "I don't think we will finish the war soon," says Col. Hennadiy Kovalenko, an official at the defense ministry. "But we are convinced that this is a war of necessity." He and other defense ministry officials say that continued (and if possible, expanded) U.S. shipment of weapons is essential.

"We depend 100 percent on the United States," he says. Like other Ukrainian officials we met, he offers emphatic thanks for U.S. assistance and doesn't seem worried that recent congressional turmoil will derail America's commitment to aid Ukraine.

I'm left pondering the question that Ukrainians are struggling with so painfully. What's the right way forward for a nation that is feeling the costs of war like a blast of shrapnel?

In just conflicts, the best strategy is surely to stay the course, especially when people begin to despair. And if Ukraine has the will to continue, and the United States and its partners remain firm in their commitments of support, then "as long as it takes" is the right course.

But if Ukraine seriously questions whether it can survive a fight that might take many years, then it needs to think about a way to freeze this conflict on its own terms — with a security guarantee from the United States as part of that deal.

"We are in grief," Larysa Bilozir, a member of parliament from eastern Ukraine, tells me. She has just returned from her district, where 304 people have died in the war, and her visit coincided with the funerals of two young men.

Ukraine won't sue for peace. As many people have told me this week, it's too personal. As a superpower, the United States can try to steer this conflict toward a settlement that protects Ukraine and doesn't reward Russian aggression. But don't ask Ukrainians to give up their cause. They won't do it.

RAMESH PONNURU

Why a conservative Republican prayed for a smaller GOP majority

The week before he voted with seven other House Republicans and all House Democrats to remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif) as speaker, Rep. Matthew M. Rosendale (Mont.) said he had prayed his party would not win a big victory in the 2022 midterms. His thinking: If Republicans had a sufficiently small majority in the House, then it would take only "six or seven very strong individuals" to "drag the conference over to the right."

The 96 percent of House Republicans who voted to keep McCarthy are not happy with Rosendale or with his logic, which echoes Vladimir Lenin's slogan: "Better fewer, but better."

Rosendale's colleagues see that a smaller cadre of elected Republicans has not enabled more conservative policy victories than a large House majority would have, especially if that majority had been coupled with one in the Senate. But Rosendale was not wrong. Republicans' poor showing last year has increased the influence of some conservatives in particular, including Rosendale himself.

Republicans lost several winnable seats in 2022. A Republican congressman from Grand Rapids, Mich., who voted to impeach Donald Trump narrowly lost his primary. The winner then lost the November election. In a northern Ohio district, a scandal-plagued but Trump-backed candidate barely won his primary and then underperformed against the Democrat. In Alaska's at-large House seat, Republicans placed their hopes in the polarizing Sarah Palin and got the predictable result. If just those three races had gone slightly differently, McCarthy would have been able to keep his job over the objections of eight House Republicans.

But in that case, Fox News wouldn't be quite so eager to interview Rosendale. Nobody would be asking which candidate for speaker could win his vote and how. His influence in the Republican Party is larger because his party as a whole is smaller.

Republicans rarely say they want a smaller party, as Rosendale did. Few of them, probably, admit even to themselves that's what they want. Again and again, though, a lot of Republicans have made deliberate choices that make a broad coalition impossible. Elevating candidates who pledge their fealty to Trump and adopt his grievances as their own, even though he has been a consistently unpopular figure throughout his political career, is one such choice.

So is taking an approach to politics that assumes you can purge your way to victory. Kari Lake, the Republican nominee for governor of Arizona last year, told McCain Republicans to go away. They did, which is why she is not the governor of Arizona.

Both Republicans and Democrats can fall into this type of Leninism. It's part of why neither party wins landslides anymore. Each side's activists see the other's radicalism and missteps as a license to move further from public opinion. If Democrats put themselves in danger by stoking inflation, it means Republicans can renominate Trump and stay competitive. If Republicans are about to renominate Trump, Democrats can get away with dismissing concerns about the border.

But the small-is-beautiful tendency does not affect both parties equally. Republican politicians are probably geared more toward individualism, and less toward solidarity, than Democratic ones are. Republicans in our era regard one institution after another as hostile to them — sometimes rightly — and have therefore become less interested in running them effectively. The Democrats never ousted a speaker of theirs when they had a narrow majority. They never even came close.

Democrats have also been forced to keep their tent a little wider. Americans who consider themselves conservative make up a larger percentage of Republicans than self-described liberals do of Democrats, so the Democratic coalition has to be more accommodating. And Democrats have learned from several national elections that they need more than a bare majority to win national power.

Because the vast majority of House Republicans wanted to keep McCarthy, they are understandably now expressing interest in institutional reform. It is perverse to allow a speaker to be removed without having been defeated by someone who had more votes. But the institution chiefly in need of fixing is not the U.S. House. It's the Republican Party.

CATHERINE RAMPELL

Our borrowing might finally come back to bite us

With long-term interest rates surging in the past few weeks, a fiscal reckoning could now be approaching — faster and sooner than anyone in Washington is prepared for.

Let me guess: You've heard this story before. For decades, scolds have warned that running huge budget deficits year after year was "unsustainable," and yet for a long time, the situation kept, well, sustaining itself.

U.S. debt swelled, reaching roughly 100 percent of the size of the overall economy in 2020. This happened seemingly without consequence to anyone — not the federal government, not markets, not the overall U.S. economy and definitely not normal consumers, for whom this whole fiscal debate probably looks like an abstract morality play. Despite mounting debt, the world was still willing to lend to the U.S. government on the cheap. Which meant U.S. consumers and businesses could borrow on the cheap, too.

But something shifted this summer: The government's long-term borrowing costs started climbing. The interest rate on the 10-year Treasury touched 4.8 percent earlier this week, up from 3.3 percent six months earlier. Those long-term rates are now hovering around 16-year highs and are generally much higher than budget watchers had been forecasting.

This means that however ugly the fiscal forecasts looked before, they could still be too optimistic.

Exactly why long-term rates have risen so much so fast is unclear. The answer *doesn't* seem related to inflation (or the Federal Reserve's inflation response, which focuses on short-term interest rates), since long-term inflation expectations have stayed quite stable. Rather, economists have suggested it's likely due to a combination of other things. These include U.S. budget deficits, the Fed shrinking its balance sheet (which means selling off longer-term Treasury securities), yet another rating agency's downgrade of U.S. sovereign debt (plus a signal that the one rating agency holding out on a downgrade might join in, too), political dysfunction, and assorted international factors.

Whatever the cause, if this keeps up, things could get very hairy in the next few years.

When long-term rates rise, all the debt that the government has *already* acquired becomes more expensive to maintain. The same is true for any *new* debt Congress plans to add. There are a lot of dollars in that latter category, since politicians have made commitments to continue spending more than the government collects in taxes.

Unless we get a sudden boom in economic growth, higher interest rates mean that the cost of servicing our debt will expand and crowd out our ability to spend on other things we care about.

For a very long time, politicians haven't had to make tough choices about which spending programs to cut or which taxes to raise, because borrowing to fill a budget hole was effectively free. They lived in a world without trade-offs.

Going forward, borrowing might not be so free.

If interest costs rise and economic growth doesn't keep up, we'll have much less "fiscal space" to commit to new programs — even ones that might offer a huge return on investment (such as resources that help kids from low-income families become more productive, taxpaying adults) or that are needed to respond to an unexpected shock (recession, pandemic, war). If borrowing costs stay higher than economic growth, that also stresses our ability to pay for critical programs we have *today*.

There's an obvious solution for all this: The government could start making more responsible budget decisions by raising revenue and/or curbing spending. Or, for that matter, by bringing in more working-age immigrants to increase the productive capacity of the economy as the country ages.

Obvious — and yet all seemingly impossible.

Lawmakers have lately struggled to make even routine fiscal decisions, such as paying our bills on time (even while we still can afford them) or passing regular spending bills to keep the government running. It is hard to imagine lawmakers making proactive policy changes to reduce deficits, especially since all of the required changes would be unpopular with some core constituency.

The problem isn't merely the general political dysfunction that infects other parts of governance. That long period of free money, when politicians never faced tough trade-offs, made the parties *especially* inept on fiscal issues.

Politicians got lazy and complacent, happy to proffer pretty much any goody to win votes, whatever the hit to the budget. Once upon a time, the main obstacle to reducing deficits had been that the political parties each promised different but expensive things, which could theoretically be paid for from the other side of the ledger: The Republican Party wanted low taxes, while the Democratic Party wanted bigger spending.

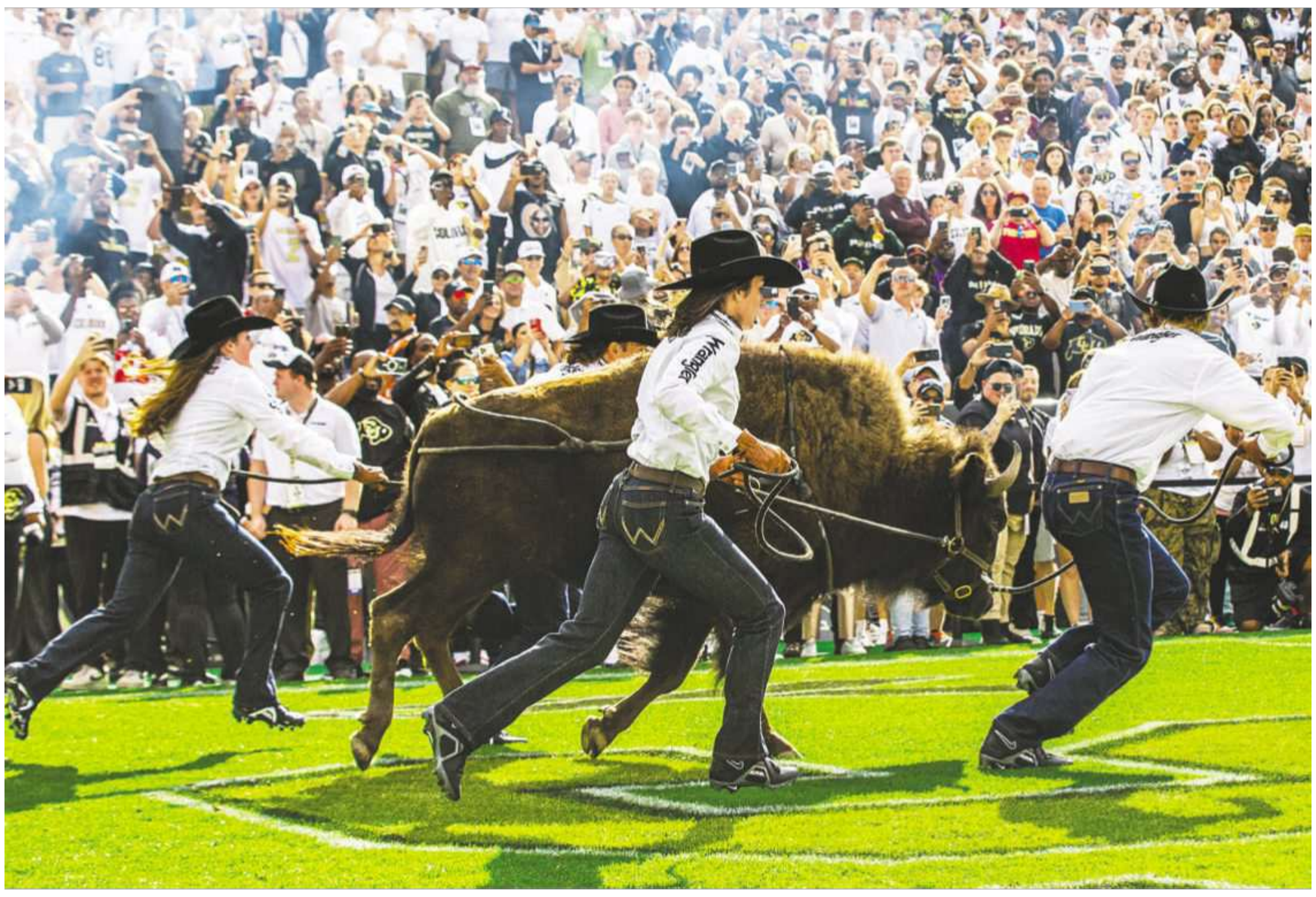
Today, both parties promise both. That is, President Biden is on board with extending the Trump tax cuts for 97 percent of households; Republicans have happily expanded spending and pledged to leave programs such as Medicare untouched.

Someday soon — perhaps sooner than anyone would like — someone will have to break a promise.

PHOTOS BY DAVID WILLIAMS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The now-buzzy Buffaloes eventually may lose, but their mascot will always be 'undefeated'

'Before this year,' one University of Colorado student says, 'we only came to the games for Ralphie'



BY KARIN BRULLIARD

BOULDER, COLO. — For years, the most acclaimed athlete on the University of Colorado football field weighed about half a ton and ran at speeds of 25 mph. Twice every game, Ralphie the buffalo would race across the turf accompanied by a cowboy-hatted squad of students who trained and earned varsity letters for the privilege.

The star mascot and her handlers unfailingly dazzled. The football team that charged in after her, on the other hand, generally lost.

It's different this year. Now led by Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders, the Colorado Buffaloes have become the talk of the college gridiron after bursting into the season with three straight victories, a fan turnout that has included Jay-Z and the Rock, and hype that has electrified this city edging the Rocky Mountain foothills. Though the team's record has since fallen to 3-2, the buzz has not waned.

If Ralphie minds sharing the spotlight, she is not saying — snacks are her love language, not fame. But for her handlers, the team's reversal of fortunes is a dream come true.

Minutes before kickoff at Saturday's home game against the University of Southern California, the celebrity stood calmly (and urinated) in her pen amid blaring marching bands and Folsom Field's largest ever media scrum. As the announcer boomed three words — "HERE! COMES! RALPHIE!" — a gate opened, four students holding leads attached to her harness began to sprint, and a chocolate blur bolted in a horseshoe path back toward her trailer before a sold-out crowd of more than 54,000.

"The fans, they still love Ralphie, and they still love this football program, even when we're suffering," said one of the runners, Phil Schabarum, a 21-year-old senior. "But it feels a lot better when we're winning."

CU football games have featured a Ralphie, who is actually an American bison, since 1966. Today's representative, a 3-year-old nicknamed Ember, is Ralphie VI. All have been female, the sex preferred for its smaller size and gentler demeanor. An apocryphal story traces the name to the first mascot's mistaken identity, but the official line is that the origin is unclear.

The university tracks the outcome of games where Ralphies have appeared, and as a good-luck charm, the mascot's record is only about 60 percent. But that has not diminished her status as star of the show. During last year's 1-11 season, handlers said, they grew used to seeing spectators stream out of the stadium after Ralphie's second dash at halftime.

"Before this year, we only came to the games for Ralphie," said junior Josie Park, who arrived with friends Saturday in bison-horn headbands — Ralphie headbands, they specified.

In a nearby parking lot, Buz Weisberg poured a tequila cocktail in the open bed of a pickup adorned with a stuffed Ralphie. Weisberg attended his first CU game in 1959, remembers all the Ralphies and — as a major donor to the athletics department — has gotten to pet and pose for photos with some of them.

"The fans from the other team, they're always amazed," he said. "It's always fun watching our beautiful mascot, the best mascot in all of football, run the field."

Some lists, CU points out, have indeed deemed Ralphie the best live mascot. (Less mentioned is that Sports Illustrated named her sixth best in a 2019 ranking that included a human dressed as a tree. No. 1 was the University of Georgia's bulldog, Uga.)

PETA, which condemns all use of animals for entertainment, called on CU to end the tradition after Ralphie V retired in 2019. Fans scoffed, and the Ralphie program manager responded that the bovine "enjoys the spotlight as the queen of our campus."

The handler team is highly protective of Ralphie and takes pains to convey how well they care for her and adore her. These days, hardly anyone is allowed to pet her. She lives in an undisclosed location with her predecessor, the biggest and fastest of Ralphies. Her pasture features cottonwood trees, city-donated street sweeper brushes that serve as bison scratching posts and rubber balls that Ralphie VI uses to play soccer.

"She kicks it and head-butts it. She passed with me for a little bit," said handler Kate Drobnich, one of three women on the 14-handler team. "She's so smart."

Ralphie VI was abandoned at birth by her mother on a ranch in Nebraska, and a CU alumna's family donated her. She arrived at the university weighing just 150 pounds, recounted program manager Taylor Stratton, who slept near the baby bison in her barn for two weeks. Stratton was herself a handler as an undergrad about a decade ago, a position she said she pursued purely because she "wanted to pet the buffalo."

Making Ralphie's team is no small feat. Tryouts involve 100-yard sprints, an arm-killing number of pull-ups and rounds of interviews. Less than 10 percent of applicants are typically accepted, said Stratton, who added that the number of women has increased from four at the 2020 tryouts to 18 applicants so far this season.

Participation in the donor-funded program is a 20- to 30-hour weekly commitment in the fall, with public appearances, bison care and twice-a-week strength training. Muscles are required to hold tight as Ralphie — 850 pounds and still growing — pretty much hauls runners across the field.

"I always say, it's not really me sprinting. It's not your normal, get your feet on the ground as much as you can," explained Drobnich, a senior who grew up in Michigan with zero large-animal experience but vowed to be a handler after touring CU in high school. "You don't want to be on the ground, so you get carried as far as you can."

The runs, she and other handlers say, are exhilarating.

On Saturday, Drobnich was back right during Ralphie's first romp. In the front-right starter position was Schabarum, a San Diego native who was on his high school surf team and is known among handlers as the "California cowboy."

Cleats are worn during the run, which lasts all of 20 seconds. But the team's look is strongly Western: cowboy hat, button-up shirt, jeans with enough stretch to sprint in — all provided by Wrangler. It is somewhat incongruous in Boulder, a city that leans more Tesla than tractor.

The handlers have garnered the attention of Coach Prime, who nervously met Ralphie in April. Their exchange was memorialized on video by the university and Deion Sanders Jr., who chronicles his father's everyday life on YouTube.

The clip — titled "I've NEVER SEEN HIM THIS SCARED! Coach Prime FINALLY Faces His Biggest Fear" — shows the coach hesitantly stepping into Ralphie's trailer as Stratton offers chipper reassurances. He dons leather gloves to feed her a corn-and-grain mix and exclaims that her massive tongue is "like a brick!"

Sanders stays in the trailer as Ralphie completes her run, bounding straight toward him. "Oh no! Oh no! Oh no!" he shouts, backing up. "That was something. … That was intimidating."

Football players, including the coach's son and star quarterback, Shedeur Sanders, have not bonded with Ralphie. Not that she would be impressed.

"She's like, do you have snacks? You're no celebrity to me without snacks," Stratton said.

Ralphie completed her halftime circuit on Saturday and then was driven home to her secret ranch. The stadium stands, unlike in years past, didn't empty.

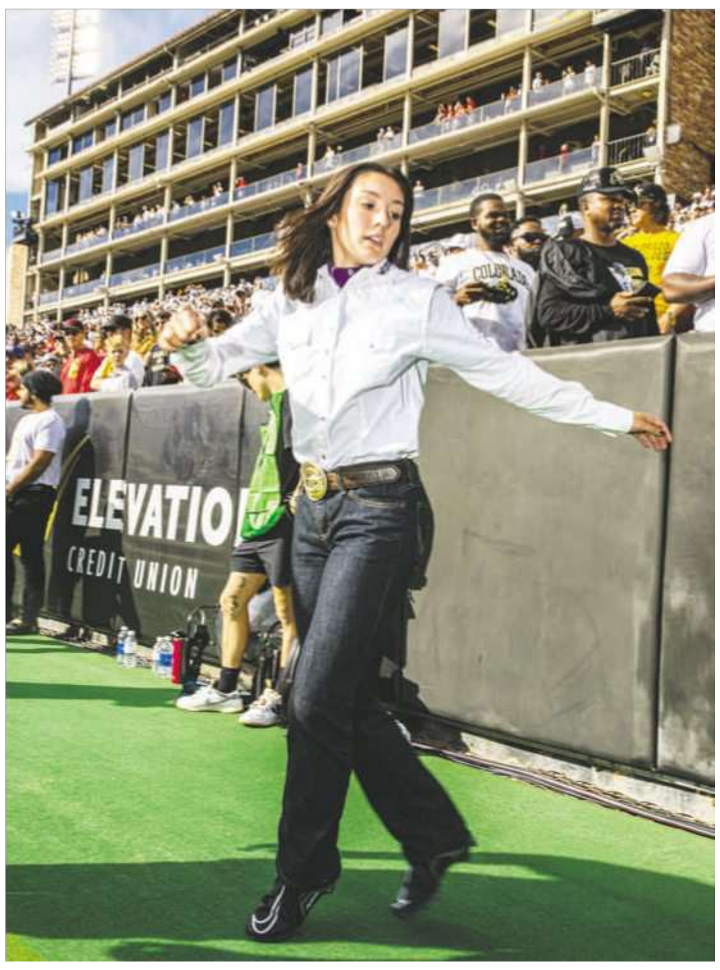
Her handlers remained at one end zone, rolling up their sleeves as the temperature rose and posing for photos with USC fans. Rookie handler Matthew Nicholas did a few pull-ups from a railing near CU enthusiasts. "Let's go, Ralphie Runners!" one gushed. "You guys are the best!"

After a weak start, the Buffs mustered something of a comeback. Two handlers did push-ups after each touchdown.

"It's a pretty great atmosphere," Schabarum said, gazing at the sea of Buffalo fans.

In the end, Ralphie's runs were Colorado's only win. The football team lost, 48-41, to USC, a powerhouse.

"But hey, Ralphie is undefeated," Nicholas said. "That's the good news."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Ralphie's handlers warm up and stretch before their run with her in a packed, cheering stadium at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The university's current mascot is its sixth Ralphie. She's still young and still growing. Accompanied by her handlers, Ralphie covers much of Folsom Field before each of the football team's home games. The handlers, who try out and train for the privilege, wear a Western uniform. Senior Kate Drobnich warms up before a Ralphie run, which she says is more like getting carried along, feet barely on the ground. Barbara Weisberg holds her niece Maya and a miniature plush Ralphie in the parking lot before Saturday's game. Chip, as the university's buffalo character mascot is known, interacts with fans. He gets cheers, but not as many as Ralphie does.

The Washington Post

METRO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 EZ M2 B

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.	High today at approx. 4 p.m.
67°	73°	78°	72°	78° Precip: 80% Wind: SE 7-14 mph

THE DISTRICT

The head of the city's 911 call center defends the agency's response to the District Dogs flash flood. B3

THE DISTRICT

A man faces charges in a gunfight that injured three people outside a Buzzard Point restaurant. B3

OBITUARIES

Evelyn Fox Keller, 87, a physicist and biologist, developed a feminist critique of the sciences. B4

Half of Md. jail deaths occur soon after lockup

STUDY: PERILOUS FIRST 10 DAYS IN CUSTODY

Findings should serve as a call to action, authors say

BY ELLIE SILVERMAN AND JASMINE HILTON

Hours after Robert John Bitler Jr. was arrested and detained in Maryland for an alleged probation violation, a nurse noted his high blood pressure while he was detoxing from drugs.

The next morning, correctional officers found him snoring during a cell check, according to an incident report. Minutes later, the report said, they found him unresponsive in his cell.

The 49-year-old was pronounced dead within an hour.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled his death was natural, and police said correctional officers, who performed CPR on Bitler, followed procedures. But his family argues more could have been done to help him.

"A person shouldn't have to die in jail," said his 71-year-old mother, Adella Weigand.

A new report of Maryland in-custody deaths from 2008 to 2019 — written by national and D.C.-area organizations that advocate for criminal justice reform — reveals that Bitler's death soon after being detained is not uncommon. Although Bitler died outside the time frame in the study, the authors say his death is indicative of a larger crisis happening behind bars.

The study analyzed 180 in-custody deaths in 10 Maryland detention centers and found that about half of those people died within the first 10 days of incarceration. And for those whose deaths were deemed to be from natural causes, the report shows they died nearly three decades younger than the state life expectancy.

The authors say the study raises questions about whether some of those who died in custody had medical or mental health issues that were overlooked, ignored or not treated properly, or suffered

SEE DEATHS ON B2

Youngkin takes $2M with ties to TikTok

Va. governor accepts donation despite ban on app and anti-China push

BY LAURA VOZZELLA

RICHMOND — Gov. Glenn Youngkin accepted a $2 million political contribution this week from a donor with a multibillion-dollar stake in TikTok, a Chinese-owned app that the Republican governor banned from state devices late last year amid his broader campaign against Chinese influence in Virginia.

Jeff Yass, a billionaire financier whose personal stake in TikTok's parent company is worth a reported $21 billion, donated $2 million to Youngkin's Spirit of Virginia political action committee Tuesday. With hefty political donations, Yass has been helping TikTok rally conservatives in Washington against banning the app in the United States, the Wall Street Journal reported last month.

Youngkin has been courting GOP megadonors ahead of the Nov. 7 state legislative elections that are expected to determine his viability as a potential last-minute candidate for the GOP's 2024 presidential nomination. Yass's donation adds to Youngkin's record-smashing haul but creates awkward optics for the governor, who had already flipped from bullish China investor to vocal China critic before Yass's cash came his way.

A former private equity executive who made a fortune off deals with Chinese companies, the governor started sounding alarms about China late last year, echoing themes pressed by more prominent GOP presidential contenders such as former president Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Along with banning that app and China-linked WeChat, Youngkin opposed other Chinese-related business deals ranging from a Ford plant to farmland sales.

In a news release, House Minority Leader Don L. Scott Jr. (D-Portsmouth) referenced the $3.5 billion Ford electric vehicle battery plant that Youngkin rebuffed late last year because of claims — strongly disputed by the automaker — that it was a "front" for the Chinese government. Ford, which ultimately chose Michigan for the plant, announced last week that it was pausing work on the project amid financial pressure from striking autoworkers and political pressure from members of Congress opposed to its ties to a

SEE YOUNGKIN ON B3

ERIC LEE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Marines fold a flag during a service for Pfc. Lawrence Earl Garrison at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday. Garrison was killed during the Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific on Nov. 20, 1943. DNA sequencing led to the identification of his remains nearly 80 years later.

RETROPOLIS

DNA helps solve a World War II mystery

A Marine whose remains were not identified until last year is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery

BY DANNY NGUYEN

On Lawrence Earl Garrison's first day of battle in November 1943, he joined nearly 35,000 Marines on the atoll of Tarawa in an attempt to seize the Japanese-held Gilbert Islands in the central Pacific.

Two years earlier, the United States had been drawn into World War II after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Now the U.S. military was closing in on Japan in the Battle of Tarawa, a conflict from Nov. 20 to 23, 1943, in what is now the Republic of Kiribati. About 1,000 U.S. troops died during the battle, and more than 2,000 were wounded.

On the first day of the battle, Garrison — part of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division — suffered fatal gunshot wounds. Pfc. Garrison was 23.

Without dog tags or rings, Garrison's remains were unidentifiable, said Jordan Windish, an osteoarchaeologist at History Flight, a nonprofit that helps identify missing-in-action troops, who has worked on identifying remains from Tarawa.

For close to 80 years, his family searched for closure. That process came to an end Thursday, when Garrison's remains were buried in a somber ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Over those decades, his family members — many of whom hadn't ever met Garrison, said Dwayne Taylor, 76, Garrison's nephew — had done what they could to learn about how Garrison might be identified. There wasn't much to be done, said Cheryl Cronin, 66, Garrison's niece. After all, "forensic science was at its infancy" for much of that time, Cronin said.

So they had to make do with the memories and stories they had of his

SEE RETROPOLIS ON B2

Bathroom assault victim sues Va. school district

Teen seeks $30 million, alleging officials tried to cover up 2021 incident

BY SALVADOR RIZZO

A teenage girl who was sexually assaulted in a Virginia high school bathroom has sued Loudoun County Public Schools, alleging that school officials failed to heed warning signs about her attacker and responded to her May 2021 assault by trying to cover it up.

The teenager, who filed the lawsuit under the pseudonym "Jane Doe" along with her parents, was 15 when a younger male student in a skirt assaulted her in a girls' bathroom at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn on May 28, 2021.

The incident garnered national attention. Conservatives protested a policy in Loudoun County schools — put in place after the assault — that allowed transgender students to use bathrooms matching their gender identity. Meanwhile, outraged parents in Loudoun County questioned why the perpetrator was moved to a different school, where he assaulted a second female student months later.

The teen was convicted of both attacks. His mother and teachers denied claims on the right that he was "gender-fluid." He remains in a juvenile mental health facility, according to the Stone Bridge victim's lawsuit, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria.

"It's been a long, hard-fought battle, and we're finally glad to be

SEE LAWSUIT ON B4

Abuse victim again sees church dodge accountability

Petula Dvorak

He knew "luck" wasn't the right word the moment he said it.

But Nicholas Finio was trying to describe the way everything lined up perfectly for the reckoning he'd spent decades working toward.

He filed a lawsuit in time, he worked with an experienced legal team and a good therapist. He was ready to confront the defrocked priest whose persistent sexual abuse had turned his years as a blond-haired altar boy delighted to be chosen for the solemn duties at Mass into a nightmare. The terror of the abuse lived inside him for 15 years, it followed him through high school and college, into his relationships and his marriage. It even made him think about suicide.

"It was the hardest thing I ever did in my life; it was terrifying," said Finio, now 34 and an assistant research professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland. "The first time I ever told a lawyer about it I was dripping with sweat and my hands were shaking."

And then?

Silence.

The Pennsylvania Archdiocese where Finio had been an altar boy reached for a shrewd and now-familiar playbook the Catholic Church has been deploying to muzzle survivors: declaring bankruptcy.

That meant the case that Finio had filed in 2018, when he was within the statute of limitations, that had been building for two years of discovery and paperwork, was folded into a bankruptcy hearing.

"The one piece of power I still had — the ability to speak to the public, in the courtroom — was taken away from me," Finio wrote to me this week. "I did not have that ability as an abused child, and they took it away from me again as an adult survivor.

"The church, with its immense power, cash assets to pay lawyers, and actuarial science," Finio wrote, "chose to relegate my story and those of dozens of other survivors to [E]xcel spreadsheets, paragraphs in emails, and [W]ord documents."

It was as if "they had the cheat code," he said.

And that's exactly what the Archdiocese of Baltimore did, filing for bankruptcy Sept. 29 — two days before Maryland's Child Victims Act became state law. The law was intended to open the door for hundreds of survivors to sue the church for its part in thousands of horrific sexual acts committed against children, and for church leaders' complicity in enabling priests and covering up the abuse.

He is speaking out now because other people are about to endure the "enraging" process he went through.

"The bankruptcy judge didn't talk to us," he said. "There's no getting interviewed by anybody — you're just telling your story to the insurance companies and everybody sits around the table for a couple of years."

Finio was part of the small committee of survivors who work with bankruptcy lawyers in these cases. They are seen by the court as "creditors." More than two dozen U.S. dioceses have deployed the same tactic, according to the Catholic News Agency. They call it a "restructuring" and say — from their gilded and historic buildings — that the move is crucial to their survival.

"I had to deal with a lot of

SEE DVORAK ON B4

Marine's family receives closure 80 years after he was killed in the Pacific

RETROPOLIS FROM **B1**

upbringing in Ryan, Okla. "My father always said how sometimes Lawrence would go hunting to help feed the family" during the Great Depression, Cronin said. "I know he was a man of real faith."

Many sets of unidentified remains from the Battle of Tarawa, including Garrison's, were transported to Hawaii in 1946, Windish said. More than 72,000 Americans are still missing from World War II, according to data from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), a federal agency that tracks down missing defense personnel.

Then, in 2009, the DPAA, History Flight and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, a scientific lab that identifies missing-in-action service members, partnered to exhume and identify Tarawa troops.

After Cronin read about this effort, she contacted the DPAA and learned that some people killed in Tarawa had been identified through DNA sequencing, she said. So around 2013, she contacted family members to send DNA samples to the DPAA.

For older cases like Garrison's, one of the techniques used by the DPAA and History Flight is mitochondrial DNA sequencing.

Sequencing uses an individual's DNA sample to generate a corresponding genetic code, which can then be overlaid with another individual's sequence to see whether they are related. "Mitochondrial DNA-based sequencing technologies are becoming much more common," said Thomas Clements, a biology lecturer at Vanderbilt University. Because mitochondrial DNA is generally more abundant than other types of genetic material, this type of sequencing is "useful in identifying certain samples that have degraded with age or when the sample size is low," he said.

DNA sequencing, though, is usually the last resort when identifying remains, given its expense, Windish said. First, they'll review dental records and look for material evidence such as dog tags and rings. "But really, DNA is going to be the one that costs the most money because it's a scientific technique."

Mitochondrial DNA sequencing has its limitations. This kind of DNA is inherited exclusively from the mother, so the family would have to collect DNA samples from Garrison's maternal lineage.

Cronin couldn't provide the sample; she is Garrison's brother's daughter. So another niece — who is now deceased — contributed the sample, Cronin said.

Mitochondrial DNA sequencing lays the groundwork for genetic identification, said Timothy McMahon, director of Defense Department DNA operations at the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. To zero in on a potential match, the system used Y chromosome testing — from another relative's sample — to track Garrison's father's lineage, McMahon said.

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Garrison, who grew up in Oklahoma, was 23 when he died fighting Japanese forces.

In August 2022, the DPAA and History Flight notified the family that Garrison's remains had been identified, Windish said. At first, Cronin thought the call was a scam. Then realization set in. The mystery was finally solved.

"I am just so overwhelmed with gratitude," Cronin said. Throughout the long hunt for Garrison's remains, she had thought of "what this would have meant to him. [We're] just so grateful for all the advances in science and the fact that we have the government and people that are dedicated to recovering people like this."

Since 2009, History Flight has identified more than 150 military members, a majority of whom died in Tarawa, Windish said.

Rapid scientific advancement has made it possible for the DPAA, in partnership with groups like the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and History Flight, to identify hundreds of people annually in recent years, vs. "a couple of dozen a year" previously, Windish said. Since the 1970s — when the DPAA renewed its recovery efforts — nearly 1,000 troops killed in World War II have been identified and had their remains returned to their families.

ERIC LEE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlos A. Ruiz presents a folded flag to Cheryl Cronin, niece of Pfc. Lawrence Earl Garrison, during a service at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday.

That's partly because technological advancement has generally made genome sequencing less costly, Clements said. The process has become more automated, and scientists can "process large amounts of sequence data simultaneously using computational-based technology," he said. As such, it's more feasible to identify people through DNA sequencing, Windish said. At the beginning of the 21st century, whole-genome sequencing cost $100 million per person; now it costs less than $1,000.

For Garrison's family, these advancements culminated in a long-awaited funeral Thursday. Marines fired three ceremonial rounds of seven gunshots — traditionally a war signal to cease fire and allow troops to pick up corpses on the battlefield. Gunpowder filled the air as the chaplain recited a sermon before officially laying to rest an 80-year mystery.

Md. jails dispute assessment, say the incarcerated tend to have poorer health

DEATHS FROM **B1**

injuries that contributed to their deaths. The authors are calling on officials to do a comprehensive look to determine why the deaths occurred and whether any could have been prevented.

"There is something unique about the jail environment itself that is causing people to die early," said Terence Keel, principal investigator at UCLA's BioCritical Studies Lab, which is focused on discrimination and inequality and was a partner on the report. The conditions in jail, Keel said, "create what I think amounts to a public health crisis."

Officials from facilities mentioned in this report disputed that assessment and pointed out that many people come into detention centers with serious health issues.

"Generally people are not getting the health care they need outside before coming in the facility," said Sheriff Chuck Jenkins of Frederick County, where Bitler died. "To make a general statement that it's a public health crisis is not accurate."

The new study focused on deaths in jails, which are mostly used to detain people awaiting trial or sentencing. Bitler died nine weeks before he was scheduled to have a hearing in his probation violation case, records show.

The authors point to the disproportionate incarceration of Black people in Maryland. A 2019 report by the Justice Policy Institute shows 3 in 10 Marylanders are Black, but more than 7 in 10 people in Maryland's prisons are Black — which is more than double the national average of 32 percent.

More than half of the in-custody deaths reviewed in the study were those of Black people. The facilities in the data set include Prince George's County, Baltimore and Charles County, which are majority-Black areas. The authors did not receive information about jail conditions or the detailed circumstances around each death, limiting their research and the public's understanding of these deaths, Keel said.

The authors relied on publicly available data that detention centers reported to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Their analysis focused on 10 facilities that had the most usable data over about a decade — out of a total of 30 jails in the state, as tallied by the National Institute of Corrections. The study did not include any data from Maryland's 24 state prisons.

The study's authors say the findings should serve as a call to action for Maryland leaders to craft policies that both keep more people out of jail before trial and more thoroughly investigate in-custody deaths, including mandating autopsies.

This report comes at a time when the condition of people in custody has come under scrutiny. Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown (D) has been pushing the General Assembly to create an ombudsman to oversee complaints about the correctional system, and Gov. Wes Moore (D) has previously pledged to reduce racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

"Things have to change," said Carmen Johnson, report author and criminal justice activist in Maryland who was formerly incarcerated on what she says was a wrongful conviction. "Transparency and accountability have to happen."

Natural deaths

Eighty-four deaths in the study were — like Bitler's — designated as natural.

But Bitler's family believes Frederick County Adult Detention Center staff should have provided more medical treatment.

"I think he still would be alive if they would've took him to the d--- hospital," said his wife, Shelby Bitler, 47.

In a statement, Todd Wivell, a spokesman for the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, called Bitler's death "unfortunate" and said correctional officers follow the recommendations of medical staff when responding to medical needs. He declined to comment on the Bitler family's allegations.

Bitler, who had struggled with drugs most of his life, was detoxing from "a gallon of alcohol a day and two capsules of heroin a day" while incarcerated at the time of his death in October 2021, according to an incident report obtained by The Washington Post. Weigand and Shelby Bitler said that Bitler did not drink alcohol. The incident report also stated Bitler resisted medical care.

Although deaths like Bitler's may be technically deemed as natural, Keel said he thinks it would be more appropriate for there to be a category on death certificates that captures death while incarcerated.

In the study, the average age of people who died in custody was 44 — decades younger than the life expectancy of Maryland's population, which is about 77, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The average age of people in the study who were deemed to have died natural deaths was 49— the same age as Bitler.

Christopher Klein, the superintendent of detention facilities in Anne Arundel County, said that contrasting the average age of death of the jailed population with typical life expectancy is like comparing "apples and oranges."

Klein said people who enter Anne Arundel's Jennifer Road Detention Center — where the study shows 17 people died while in custody— don't regularly access the health-care system and have "significant health issues," including substance use disorders and poor mental health.

"That increases the risk of that population," Klein said.

Push for transparency

In Maryland, the authors wrote in the report, current policy does not mandate the medical examiner's office to perform autopsies of all in-custody deaths. As a result, they said, it can be difficult to access information after someone dies while incarcerated.

Chase Cook, a spokesman for the Maryland health department, said the medical examiner's office "strives to evaluate each case thoroughly so as to accurately classify deaths."

The study's findings and calls to increase transparency around in-custody deaths come after a panel of experts determined further review is required for 100 autopsies of people who died in custody of law enforcement in Maryland during the tenure of the former medical examiner David Fowler from 2002 to 2019. The panel focused on deaths that "occurred during or shortly after the decedent was physically restrained, and for which no obvious medical cause of death, such as a knife wound, was discerned during the autopsy." It's not clear if any of the deaths included in the study analysis are among those under review by the state.

The autopsy audit was prompted by Fowler's testimony in defense of Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd. In court, Fowler blamed Floyd's death on heart disease and drug use and classified the killing as "undetermined" and not a homicide.

Office of the Attorney General spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan said the office does not have an estimated time frame for the audit's completion. However, she added that Brown "welcomes the opportunity to work with the General Assembly as they consider whether to require an autopsy when deaths occur while in-custody of public institutions and officials."

The findings in the in-custody death report emphasize the need for a correctional ombudsman to provide independent oversight of these facilities and to improve "accountability, transparency, and advocacy within the system, pretrial and beyond," Brown said in a statement. The Maryland legislature is expected to consider such a bill in the upcoming session.

In response to a request for comment on the in-custody death report findings, officials at one detention center emphasized the ways staff evaluate peoples' health and provide needed medical services. In Charles County, where the study shows seven people died while in custody, Sheriff's Office spokesperson Diane Richardson said the office has made changes to boost the detention center's security and safety, including mental health support. She said no one has died in-custody since February 2019.

In Harford County, where the study shows 14 people died in custody, Sheriff Jeff Gahler said he would support legislation mandating autopsies of in-custody deaths.

"Anytime we've had an in-custody death, there's inferences of wrongdoing," Gahler said. "So anything that we can do to assure the public that that is not the case, that is my interest as an elected sheriff."

'I still want answers'

Latreice Whitehead often thinks about her husband, De'Andre Whitehead, the way he died while he was incarcerated, and all the questions she still has about his death.

De'Andre Whitehead died at a Baltimore facility not included in the study, but some details of his death this past January resemble findings presented in the report.

The 38-year-old was awaiting trial, after being arrested and charged with attempted murder in March 2021, according to his attorney Marci Johnson. He had preexisting health conditions, including asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure. So after he had passed out twice this January while at the Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center in Baltimore, his wife said she did not understand why he wasn't transported to a hospital.

Mark Vernarelli, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services spokesman, said in a statement that correctional staff at the jail "became aware that Mr. Whitehead needed medical attention" on Jan. 25, but he did not offer further details about Whitehead's condition. He was then transported to the medical unit inside the jail where "lifesaving efforts began," but shortly after, paramedics pronounced him dead, Vernarelli said.

Detectives investigated the case, there were no administrative charges, and it is now closed. The autopsy found the death was from natural causes, Vernarelli said.

"I can't grieve properly," Latreice Whitehead, 39, said, " because I still want answers."

Erin Cox and Ovetta Wiggins contributed to this report

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Marty Baron's tenure as executive editor of *The Washington Post* coincided with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos buying the paper, the presidency of Donald J. Trump, a national reckoning around race and digital disruption in the media. Today, Oct. 6 at 12:00 p.m. ET, Baron joins editor and author Tina Brown to discuss his new book, "Collision of Power," about leading a newsroom at a time of change and disruption.

Tune in at washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/.

THE DISTRICT

911 director defends District Dogs response

BY EMILY DAVIES

The director of the District's beleaguered 911 call center, before a D.C. Council committee on Thursday, denied any missteps by her agency in a response to an August flash flood that killed 10 dogs at pet day care facility, saying "there wasn't a delay," even though firefighters did not arrive at the facility until 23 minutes after the first 911 call.

"We immediately put the card in and it was dispatched," said Heather McGaffin, director of the D.C. Office of Unified Communications, referring to the way that the office alerts first-responders after fielding a 911 call. Although members of the council's public safety and judiciary committee peppered her with questions, McGaffin offered virtually no additional details about what caused the delay.

The Aug. 14 flash flood inundated District Dogs in the 600 block of Rhode Island Avenue NE. City Administrator Kevin Donahue later confirmed that authorities received three 911 calls about the incident, between 5:06 p.m. and 5:18 p.m. But firefighters were slow in arriving and 10 dogs drowned.

"I believe overall we merit a great deal of confidence," said McGaffin. But she offered no specific answers to council members' question about the incident.

"It's clear that the agency lacks fundamental structural competency to run effectively," council member Brianne K. Nadeau (D-Ward 1) said at the hearing on the D.C. Office of Unified Communications.

The delayed response to the flash flood reflects deep-rooted issues inside D.C.'s 911 center, which observers say continues to make critical mistakes despite years of warnings by government officials and outside investigators that the agency needs an overhaul.

The incident also sparked outrage in other parts of the D.C. government and at the dog day care, which had long been on notice that the area was susceptible to flooding.

During Thursday's committee hearing, members delivered yet another thrashing to the 911 call center, saying the public safety agency is failing to meet its basic responsibilities despite warnings by government officials and outside investigators of vulnerabilities at the agency. One resident who testified Thursday said she was put on hold multiple times for two to three minutes when her daughter was in cardiac arrest. Another resident said she could not get through to 911 when a man with a gun started firing at Metro riders at the Potomac Avenue Metro Station in February.

Council members urged McGaffin to publicly release computer-aided dispatch records from the District Dogs response. Dave Statter, a retired WUSA (Channel 9) reporter who closely tracks emergency dispatches, testified at the hearing that the dispatch records, which he has obtained, show critical mistakes from 911 call-takers.

McGaffin said she would not make those records public.

"I certainly plan to follow up on the Director's blatant blurring of the facts and refusal to turn over information that District residents have a right to know," council member Zachary Parker (D-Ward 5) said on X, the social media platform formerly know as Twitter.

McGaffin, in more than two hours of testimony, described the call center as an "industry leader" and said the agency was struggling with the same sets of issues that are challenging emergency response centers nationwide.

Many council members and neighborhood representatives who testified echoed requests outlined in a September letter sent to top D.C. officials, which was signed by nearly 100 neighborhood representatives and called for the agency to make public staffing numbers and release 911 call recordings and transcripts upon request.

McGaffin has said staffing is the primary challenge at the 911 call center. In September, 40 percent of 911 center shifts were understaffed, according to data released by the agency on its new performance dashboard. That month, there was not a single day when the call center hit the national standard of answering 90 percent of calls within 15 seconds, the data shows.

"I just want to know, what are we going to do to make this better in the future for other people?" said Toni Barnes, who said she was kept waiting for more than 20 minutes when her daughter was in cardiac arrest.

Barnes said her daughter, now 27, has lasting brain damage from the delay.

McGaffin said the agency has hired more than 30 people since May — bringing its vacancy number down from 36 to five. She said some of those new employees are still going through training, which means District residents may not notice an improvement in response time until the new year.

Call centers nationwide are facing similar challenges in staffing. A survey of call centers conducted by the National Emergency Number Association in May and June found that 82 percent of respondents across the United States are short staffed and 74 percent said their centers are facing staff burnout. Three-quarters of participants attributed the shortages to a high-stress environment, and 65 percent cited low wages. Less than half of respondents said they felt prepared to handle any incident.

Brooke Pinto (D-Ward 2), chair of the council's committee on the judiciary and public safety, has introduced legislation to "enhance hiring and retention incentives for critical positions at District public safety agencies, including at the Office of Unified Communications."

Meagan Flynn and Oliva Diaz contributed to this report.

THE DISTRICT

One charged in gunfight outside SW restaurant

BY PETER HERMANN

A shooting that injured three people Monday night outside a seafood restaurant along the waterfront in Southwest Washington was described by police as a gun battle between a group that had just finished eating and others waiting in a parking lot.

One member of the group that had just exited the Point D.C. restaurant told police they had been victims of an attempted robbery for jewelry. But a co-owner of the restaurant, Greg Casten, said that based on surveillance video, the attack appeared to be "targeted toward an individual and not a random robbery."

Authorities said the injuries were not serious. Casten said gunfire struck five glass windows at the restaurant in Buzzard Point, disrupted dinner service for 20 guests and prompted a bartender to put active-shooter training into action and force a colleague to the floor for safety. He said no one inside the restaurant was hurt.

The 8:30 p.m. shooting, south of Nationals Park in an area rapidly transforming into a redeveloped residential and nightlife district, raised more concerns about rising crime in the District. An hour later, a congressman from Texas was carjacked at gunpoint in the nearby Navy Yard area.

"Living in the city," Casten said of the recent violence, as if it were a given. He and his family own several restaurants in D.C., including in Georgetown and Ivy City. The Point D.C. is in the 2100 block of Second Street SW.

D.C. police said in an arrest affidavit that three men had walked out of the restaurant and were headed for a parking lot across the street. One of the restaurant patrons told police that a gunman tried to steal a necklace from one his friends. But the police narrative does not describe a robbery attempt. Police said video shows four men get out of a black BMW "with weapons drawn" and aim at the three men who had just emerged from the restaurant.

"A volley of gunfire" between one of the restaurant patrons and the four assailants ensued, the affidavit says. Police said the armed patron began "firing repeatedly from the doorway of the Point."

Police said three people, including a teenage juvenile, were wounded. Police did not identify the group to which the people struck by bullets belonged. Authorities said that they recovered two firearms and that several people involved escaped on foot and in the BMW.

Police said the patron who fired a gun, Amori Davis, 27, was arrested and charged with possessing an unlicensed firearm. He was ordered detained pending a court hearing scheduled for Friday. His attorney did not respond to an interview request.

Violent crime in D.C., driven by spikes in homicides and robberies, is up nearly 40 percent this year compared with the same period in 2022. Residents have raised concerns, while Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) has pushed for tougher laws and sentences and to make it easier for judges to detain certain criminal defendants before their trials.

Casten said when the gunfire started outside the restaurant, staffers and patrons appeared calm and acted quickly to find cover. "It's almost like people understand and know that when there's gunfire," he said, "get down and get safe."

TikTok investor donates to Youngkin

YOUNGKIN FROM B1

Chinese firm.

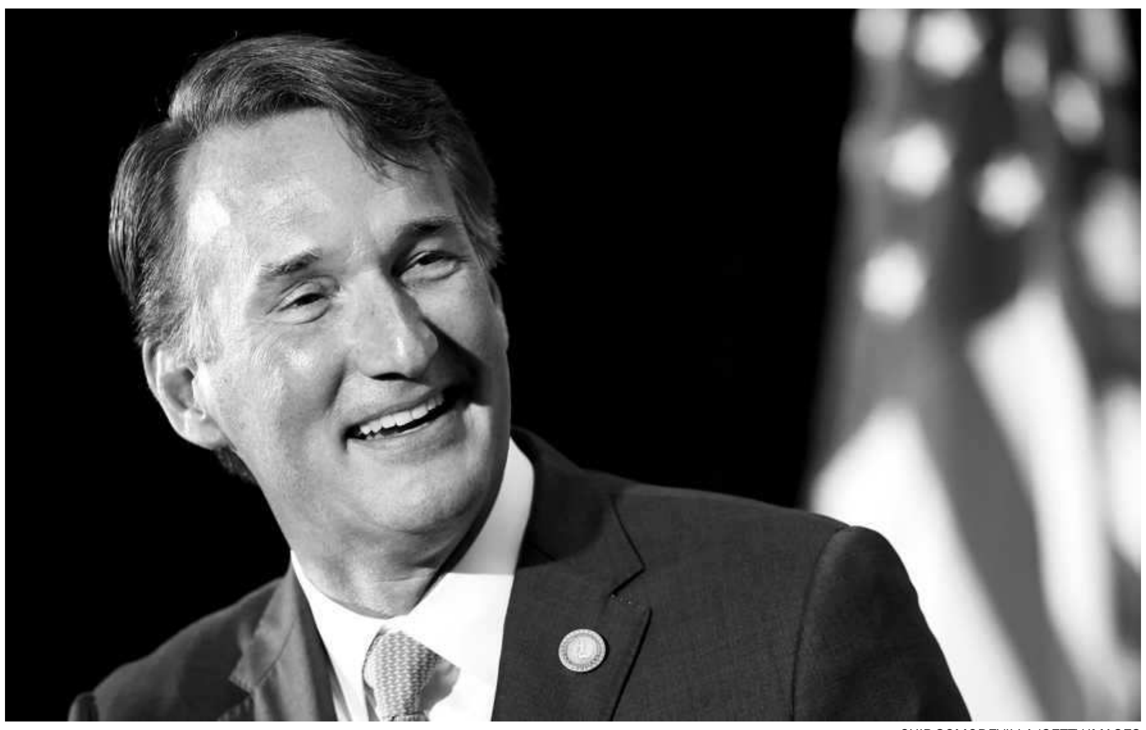
"He drove away hundreds of thousands of dollars from Ford to create jobs in the Danville area because of MAGA conspiracy theories, but will accept millions of dollars to his own campaign," Scott said.

Spirit of Virginia officials did not respond directly when asked why the governor was comfortable with Yass's investment in the PAC given his opposition to other Chinese-linked investments in Virginia. Dave Rexrode, who leads the PAC, issued a statement saying Youngkin is "incredibly grateful for all of the support from people across Virginia and the country."

Youngkin found support for the donation from a surprising corner — the pro-DeSantis super PAC Never Back Down. Ken Cuccinelli (R), a former Virginia attorney general who is founder and director of the PAC, said he had no objections to the donation as long as it doesn't prompt Youngkin to ease his TikTok ban.

"As long as the governor's policies remain strong against China, this isn't an issue," Cuccinelli said. "Results are what matter."

Yass is co-founder of the Pennsylvania-based investment company Susquehanna International Group. He did not respond to a request for comment. He gave a $3,000 donation to a conservative Virginia PAC in 2005, his only other political donation in the state on record with the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project.



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) in D.C. on Sept. 26. Despite sounding the alarm on China last year, Youngkin accepted a $2 million donation this week from a billionaire financier with a stake in TikTok.

Susquehanna bought a stake in TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, in 2012 that represents about 15 percent of the firm, the Journal reported. Yass's personal stake is 7 percent of ByteDance, which is "worth roughly $21 billion based on the company's recent valuation, or much of his $28 billion net worth as gauged by Bloomberg," the paper reported.

Yass has been a major donor to the Club for Growth, donating $61 million — nearly a quarter of the conservative group's funding — since 2010, the Journal reported.

"Club for Growth made public its opposition to banning TikTok in March, in an opinion article by its president, at a time when sentiment against the platform among segments of both parties was running high on Capitol Hill," the paper said.

Youngkin, who declared as Carlyle Group co-CEO in 2019 that the firm was "long-term bullish on China," changed his rhetoric sharply as governor when he banned TikTok and WeChat from state-owned devices in a Dec. 16 executive order. He called the apps "a channel to the Chinese Communist Party" and a "threat to national security, the intelligence community, and the personal privacy of every single American" in a statement announcing the move.

Youngkin used a chunk of his State of the Commonwealth speech in January to dwell on the dangers of the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, which he called "a dictatorial political party that only has one goal: global dominance at the expense of the United States." He called on legislators to send him a bill to "prohibit dangerous foreign entities tied to the CCP from purchasing Virginia's farmland."

Youngkin later used video of his speech in a campaign-style online ad proclaiming that "Made in Virginia cannot be a front for the Chinese Communist Party."

Democrats in the General Assembly dismissed much of Youngkin's anti-China rhetoric as preening for the GOP primary electorate. Republicans said Democrats were too quick to dismiss the notion of a Chinese threat, particularly after a Chinese spy balloon floated across the country this year. They noted that some prominent Virginia Democrats with serious foreign security credentials — namely Sen. Mark R. Warner, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA agent — have voiced broad concerns about China.

University of Virginia political scientist Larry J. Sabato called Youngkin's motive for the ban "transparent."

"He was and is checking all the right-wing boxes that please the anti-China GOP base," he said. "But there's an exception to every rule, and Youngkin's is big money."

PETULA DVORAK

Abuse survivor describes a sense of being cheated

DVORAK FROM **B1**

anger in the last three years," Finio said. "Not really having any recourse, any ability to act on everything that has held me back for so long."

Survivors, the lawyers who deal with these cases said, aren't in it for the money. They want to be heard. They want the rest of the world to understand the adults' complicity, the calculated coverups that kept them tortured for years.

"Survivors don't want to get processed," said Benjamin Andreozzi, who was Finio's lawyer, has represented victims in New York and New Jersey and who is now representing about 20 survivors of abuse in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

When Finio saw all of this playing out in Baltimore last week, he decided to speak publicly for the first time, forgoing the John Doe anonymity of his lawsuit. He wants the church, the priest and other survivors to hear his voice.

The priest who Finio says abused him, John G. Allen, 79, is living in an apartment in Harrisburg, according to public records. He did not respond to my email seeking information. His only public comment on record about the allegations against him was a guilty plea in 2020 to two counts each of indecent assault against a child under 13, indecent assault of a child under 16 and corruption of minors — all crimes involving altar boys, according to media reports.

The Dauphin County Court judge gave him five years of probation and life on the sex offender registry, where he submits his photos, address and a description of his tattoos (a Chinese Capricorn, a moon, a star and a four-leaf clover, all on his left thigh.) He submitted his most recent photo to the registry in August.

FAMILY PHOTO

Nicholas Finio at 9, before he began to serve as an altar boy at his Pennsylvania church. Finio, now 34, said he was sexually abused by a priest for years. Subsequent legal action has fallen far short, he said.

Ordained in 1970, Allen has a long history of sexual assaults and incidents, according to the grand jury report by the Pennsylvania attorney general.

Each time something happened, the church knew.

The grand jury report documents how the church knew Allen was arrested for soliciting an undercover police officer. They heard from boys who said he paid them for sex acts. Strip poker. Nights in a hotel. Backroom invitations before services. And a bishop got the memo about Allen's alleged confession — at a Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous meeting — that he was obsessed with young boys, the report states.

And through all that, Allen was moved around nine parishes across central Pennsylvania.

It was in 1999 that Finio was a 10-year-old altar boy at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque parish in Penbrook, dreading every time Allen was the priest celebrating Mass.

Finio said the priest groped and molested him dozens of times over the three years he served at the altar. He told no one at the time.

When Finio sued in 2018, the church offered a small settlement. He wanted a trial.

Then, the bankruptcy shut it down.

He wants the Baltimore survivors to know they are not alone, and that although they're in for a long and frustrating process, they should persevere.

"Don't stop fighting," he tells them. For other survivors. For today's children. For themselves.

Alice Crites contributed to this report.

Bathroom assault victim sues Loudoun schools

LAWSUIT FROM **B1**

able to put this lawsuit forward and set a precedent that this should never happen to any child anywhere across the nation," the teenager's father, Scott Smith, told The Washington Post. He is not named in the suit but has made public appearances and statements in connection with the incident. "We're putting it in God's hands," he said.

In the lawsuit, attorney Bill Stanley, a Republican state senator who has represented Smith's family for more than a year, wrote that they are seeking at least $30 million in damages and alleged that school officials' "failure to respond promptly and adequately to reports that Jane Doe was sexually assaulted by another LCPS student constituted sex discrimination, in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972."

The girl "was admitted to the hospital for two weeks for physical, mental, and emotional trauma she suffered because of the sexual assault," Stanley said in the lawsuit. She was bullied and harassed by other students after the incident, and a Loudoun County judge in January granted a two-year protective order forbidding contact from one student "who threatened her with death," Stanley added.

The lawsuit alleged, without providing details, that "the Loudoun County Public School system was previously aware that Jane Doe's attacker had inappropriate sexual contact with another student a few years earlier on school grounds. Despite this knowledge, the LCPS system failed to protect Jane Doe (and others) from the harm she subsequently suffered." Stanley did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

A Loudoun County Public Schools spokesman declined to comment Thursday. After an internal report released last month found fault with the way school officials handled the teenager's sexual assault and another incident in 2021, the Loudoun County School Board issued a statement saying in part, "Loudoun County Public Schools has taken numerous, significant actions since 2021 in the areas of personnel changes, organizational changes, policy changes, process improvements, legislative proposals, and training to prevent incidents like the tragedies that occurred two years ago from happening again."

Immediately after the 2021 sexual assault at Stone Bridge, school officials called in the girl's parents. Then, they called the police — "not for investigation of the sexual assault that had occurred" — but because Smith allegedly made a disturbance in the front office as he grew frustrated with school officials' response, Stanley wrote.

The Loudoun County School Board has since fired schools superintendent Scott Ziegler, who is set to stand trial in February on charges that he lied to the public in June 2021, when he denied that any sexual assault had taken place. Last month, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) issued a pardon to Smith, who had been arrested at the same June 2021 board meeting for protesting what he said was a coverup of his daughter's sexual assault.

"She's been in therapy since it happened, and she's getting better every day," Smith said. "She graduated from high school last year, and she's looking forward to the future."

Justin Jouvenal contributed to this report.

OBITUARIES

EVELYN FOX KELLER, 87

Compelled to develop a feminist critique of the sciences

BY EMILY LANGER

Evelyn Fox Keller, a physicist and mathematical biologist whose observations of discrimination and bias during her career compelled her to develop a feminist critique of the sciences — and to envision new ways that science might be practiced, free of gendered assumptions — died Sept. 22 in Cambridge, Mass. She was 87.

Her death was announced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a professor emerita. Her son, Jeffrey Keller, confirmed her death but did not cite a cause.

Beginning in the 1950s, when relatively few women entered scientific professions and those who did faced pervasive sexism, Dr. Keller distinguished herself in a range of specialties, from theoretical physics to biology and genetics.

But she was perhaps best known for her application of feminist theory to science — a field, she argued, that had wrongly excluded not only women themselves, but also modes of thinking that were traditionally regarded as feminine. She did not call for a "feminist science" but rather a "gender-free science," one that she suggested would be fairer to practitioners and more productive in its results.

Dr. Keller explored her ideas in books including "Reflections on Gender and Science" (1985) and "A Feeling for the Organism," a biography of Barbara McClintock, an American geneticist who received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1983, shortly after the book was published.

Taken together, Dr. Keller's work sought to upend science as it was known. For centuries, objectivity, as exemplified by the rigors of the scientific method, had been the bedrock of all inquiry. And for centuries, objectivity was regarded as a typically male virtue, with subjective traits such as intuition and emotion associated with women.

Aside from the speciousness of those stereotypes, Dr. Keller argued, science could benefit from the application of intuition and feeling in experimentation and exploration. Laboratories may be sterile, but the scientific process is not, and many flashes of brilliance might just as fairly be described as flashes of intuition.

"There is no magic lens that will enable us to look at, to see nature unclouded," Dr. Keller once observed, "uncolored by any values, hopes, fears, anxieties, desires, goals that we bring to it."

She exposed examples of gendered thinking throughout science: for example, the notion that nature is a "she," or the popular image in human sexuality of the sperm breaching the egg much in the way that a man might conquer a woman.

She demonstrated that "what we think of as rational, objective science actually reflects men's ways of approaching knowledge," Deborah Tannen, a best-selling linguist known for her exploration of differences between men and women, once wrote about Dr. Keller's book "Reflections on Gender and Science."

"In an example I particularly relish," Tannen noted, Dr. Keller "writes that biologists failed to identify the way that slime mold changes from single-cell organisms to multicellular aggregates because they stubbornly sought a nonexistent, boss-like 'pacemaker' cell that orders the others to combine."

In 1992, Dr. Keller received a MacArthur fellowship, popularly known as a "genius" grant, for her work.

"My argument was that feeling and reason are both human traits," she later told the New York Times. "Why parse them according to the genders? Why exclude feelings from science and reason from women's domain? My whole effort was to erase those dichotomies."

Evelyn Fox was born in Queens on March 20, 1936. Her father, who ran a delicatessen, and her mother, a homemaker, were both Jewish immigrants from Belarus.

Dr. Keller and her two siblings grew up with little in the way of material comforts but were all encouraged in their education. Her brother, Maurice Fox, became a biologist at MIT, and her sister, Frances Fox Piven, became a prominent social scientist and activist.

Dr. Keller enrolled at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., where she received a bachelor's degree in physics in 1957.

"I fell in love … with a discipline of pure, precise, definitive thought, and with what I conceived of as its ambitions," she once wrote. "I fell in love with the life of the mind. I also fell in love, I might add, with the image of myself striving and succeeding in an area where women had rarely ventured. It was a heady experience."

Dr. Keller then moved to Harvard University, where she received a master's degree in 1959 and a PhD in 1963 — both in physics — while enduring what she described as an intensely misogynistic environment.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Trained in physics and biology, Dr. Keller envisioned new ways that science might be practiced — free of gendered assumptions.

"I was leered at by some, invited now and then to a faculty party by others," she recalled. "The open and unbelievably rude laughter with which I was often received at such events was only one of the many indications that I was on display — for purposes I could either not perceive or not believe."

She later branched into the interdisciplinary field of mathematical biology.

Dr. Keller taught over the years at institutions including New York University, the State University of New York at Purchase, Northeastern University in Boston and the University of California at Berkeley in addition to MIT, where she worked for the Program in Science, Technology and Society.

Dr. Keller's marriage to Joseph B. Keller ended in divorce. Besides her son, of Somerville, Mass., survivors include a daughter, Sarah Keller of Billings, Mont.; her sister; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Keller's books included "Secrets of Life, Secrets of Death: Essays on Language, Gender and Science" (1992), "Refiguring Life: Metaphors of Twentieth-Century Biology" (1995), "The Century of the Gene" (2000), "Making Sense of Life" (2002) and "The Mirage of a Space Between Nature and Nurture" (2010).

He memoir, "Making Sense of My Life in Science," was published this year.

"I want to create the conditions for a wider diversity of science," Dr. Keller told the Boston Globe in 1986, explaining her work. "I think it will be good for everybody. Scientists should be out there doing what they do best under the conditions of least constraint. Some should be fighting to release the constraints and some should be doing the work."

SUNDAY
PREVIEW

SPECIAL FEATURE

Fall Dining Guide
Tom Sietsema shares his picks for the best bargains, family-friendly spots and date night restaurants in the D.C. region.

BUSINESS
Not returning: As more companies enforce return to office mandates, some workers are choosing to quit instead of complying.

ARTS & STYLE
Danny DeVito: The 78-year-old Hollywood icon chats about his remarkable career—from "Taxi" to "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"—delving into the despicable.

Some stories may not run due to breaking news.

N-0519-2x8

The Washington Post

snow day or **school day?**
Stay one step ahead of the weather with the **Capital Weather Gang**
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S0141 4x1

IN MEMORIAM

WASHINGTON

RAYMOND WASHINGTON III
October 6, 1976 ~ March 9, 1993
Happy 47th Birthday, Ray-Ray.
You will forever live in our hearts.
We love and miss you deeply.
Love, Mom, Dad and Kim

DEATH NOTICE

CATSOURAS

JOHN NICHOLAS CATSOURAS
(Age 83)

On Monday, October 2, 2023, of Rockville, MD. Beloved husband of the late Helene C. Catsouras; father of Effie Suggs, Thomas Athanason and James Athanason; brother of Dorothy "Nicki" Lucas. Also survived by other loving family and friends. Visitation will be held at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20905 on Monday, October 9, 2023, from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by the Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.
www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com

CORSINI

DAVID FRANK CORSINI
David Frank Corsini passed away unexpectedly on September 6, 2023 at his residence in Alexandria, VA. He was preceded in death by his parents: Naomi (nee Larson) and Frank Corsini. Mr. Corsini was born in Joliet, IL on September 27, 1958. Mr. Corsini served as Executive Assistant at International Association of Machinist (IAM) Benefit Trust Fund; Artistic Director and US International Representative for L'Oreal International.
Mr. Corsini is survived by his sister Pamela Corsini of Alexandria, VA.
Mr. Corsini attended Christ the Saviour Anglican Church where memorials may be made in his name (P.O. Box 167 Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0167). Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 3 p.m. Lay To Rest Funeral Home, 8434 Alban Road, Springfield, VA 22150

DEATH NOTICE

DEATON

LORETTA CUMMINGS DEATON
(Age 85)
On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, died of cancer. She is survived by her husband Ion Deaton, eight children, five stepchildren, thirty two grandchildren and twenty two great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her late husband Joseph Cummings and son-in-law Will Buttner. Family and friends may call at Borgwardt Funerl Home, 4400 Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville, MD on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. prior to funeral service at 10:30. Interment private.
www.borgwardtfuneralhome.com

ELLIOTT

TIMOTHY ELLIOTT
Of Washington, DC on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. A man of the community who taught in DC Public Schools for over 31 years. A 1967 graduate of Cardozo High School and a 1972 graduate of D.C. Teachers College. Left to hold in love and memory are his two siblings Ronald Jackson and Alfredia Rich-Murphy; two nephews Donal Omari Ware (Kimberly) and Alonzo Watts; three nieces Karimah Ware Edwards (Stephen), Ashlei Murphy, and Chastity Waddleton (George); four great-nephews and four great-nieces. On Monday, October 9, 2023 friends may visit with the family from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 10 a.m. at Israel Baptist Church, 1251 Saratoga Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20018. Interment George Washington Cemetery. Send condolences to
www.marshallmarcfh.com

IN MEMORIAM

DENBO

BEV DENBO
Happy birthday, Bebe!
We love you and miss you everyday

IN MEMORIAM

GARVEY

CATHERINE GARVEY "Pat"
May 7, 1939 - October 6, 2007
A kind and gentle woman.
She taught us love, brought us joy, and will forever be in our hearts.

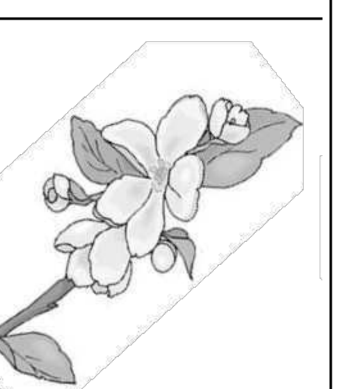
LABEACH

NELLVINA LABEACH "Doll"
In loving memory of our beloved mother and grandmother.
Love, your son, Alex;
granddaughter, Courtney;
and grandson, Alexander.
We miss you.

DEATH NOTICE

BARANICK

ANNEMARIE BARANICK
Annemarie Baranick died on Thursday, September 28, 2023 of Ovarian Cancer. Annemarie was born in Winterthur, Switzerland in November 1944 to Ernst and Rosa. In 1966, while studying at the Alliance Francaise in Paris, France she met her future husband, William Baranick. She followed him to the US where they married on September 2, 1967. Annemarie is survived by her husband Bill; two children Eric Baranick and Andrea Cornfeld (husband Rob) and six grandchildren, Erica, Amanda, Samantha, Kate, William and Megan, who were her pride and joy. Interment will be private in Winterthur, Switzerland. A local Celebration of Life in Gaithersburg, MD is to be determined. In lieu of flowers please send donations to The American Cancer Society- donate.cancer.org



DEATH NOTICE

NEWBILL

HARRIET LINDNER NEWBILL
Harriet Lindner Newbill of Bethesda, Maryland passed away peacefully on September 26, 2023 at the age of 100. She was born in Washington, DC and lived most of her life in the Washington area.

She attended Woodrow Wilson High School, Stephens College in Columbia Missouri and graduated from Stetson University in Deland Florida. She was a member of the Washington Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters, a Founder and on the Women's Committee of The National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Omega Chapter of Alpha Zi Delta Fraternity and a member of Congressional Country Club.

Her husband, Henry Logan Newbill III, a U.S. Naval aviator, died in 1974. She is survived by her two children, Tom Newbill (Robin) and Mary (Cissy) Newbill. She loved and adored her three grandchildren, Logan Newbill (Lea), Meredith Cumbo (Sam) and Hallie Johnson (Bradford) and she was so proud of her six great grandchildren, Millie, Kaito, Henry, Bryant, Maren and Kade.

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 10, 2023 at 11 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, Maryland with a reception to follow at Congressional Country Club. She will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac, Maryland or the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC.

JOSEPH GAWLER'S SONS, LLC
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
FOUNDED 1850

DEATH NOTICE

PEKATOS

NICKOLAS PEKATOS
In Loving Memory of Nickolas Pekatos
August 22, 1933 - September 26, 2023
It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Nickolas Pekatos, a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He passed away peacefully on September 26, 2023, at the age of 90.
Nickolas was born on August 22, 1933, in pre-war Kefalonia, Greece, a place that held a special place in his heart throughout his life. His early years were marked by the tumultuous events of World War II and the Greek Civil War. During this time he completed his education, displaying the resilience and determination that would become hallmarks of his character. He became a director and counselor at a boys' town and camp for war-orphaned children, where he first crossed paths with the love of his life, Alexandra Elefantis, who would become his partner in building a life together filled with love and compassion.
In 1953, tragedy struck Kefalonia when a major earthquake devastated the island. As a result, Nickolas received a visa and in 1955, made his journey to the United States.
In 1956, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served with distinction, including deployments during the Beirut, Lebanon crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was during this time that he returned to Greece to marry Alexandra. They welcomed their first son, Spero, while stationed in West Germany. Their family grew in 1964 when their second son, James, was born. James was later diagnosed with autism. Nickolas and Alexandra demonstrated boundless love and care in providing for him.
In 1964, Nickolas left the U.S. Army and started an upholstery business in Alexandria, Virginia, originally named Devaris Upholstery, which was later renamed Devaris Fabrics. Nickolas was a successful businessman, providing for his wife and children and his parents in Greece. He was an active member of the Greek AHEPA organization and a dedicated supporter of Cephalonian Global initiatives. His commitment to preserving his Greek heritage and contributing to the community was unwavering.
Throughout the years, Nickolas and Alexandra enjoyed the tradition of returning to Greece every summer for vacation since 1973. In 2011, Nickolas Pekatos retired and sold his successful business. In 2021, his heart was broken when his beloved wife of 63 years passed away.
Nickolas Pekatos will be forever remembered and cherished by his loving sons, Spero and James; his daughter-in-law, Lucy; and his grandchildren, Christine Marie, Alexandra Mary, and Nicholas John.
A viewing to celebrate Nickolas Pekatos's life will be held at 4 to 8 p.m. on October 8, 2023, at Everly-Wheatley, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the National Autism Association or Saint Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church Virginia. He will be buried in his home village of Potamianata, Kefalinia Greece.
May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his memory be a blessing to us all.

DEATH NOTICE

WHITAKER

DEACON ROBERT WILLIAM WHITAKER
Robert William Whitaker died on September 30, 2023 at age 84 years.
A mathematics graduate from Duke, Robert was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Robert relocated to Washington, DC, where he met and married Jane Catherine Jones and was a Computer Engineering Systems Analyst for 35 years. In 1993, Robert became a Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church.
He is survived by his wife Jane; his children, Susan, Peter, Matthew, and Matthew's wife Kate; and his grandchildren, Hannah, Elijah, Luke, Ellie, and David.
A visitation will be held on October 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Joseph Gawler's Sons. A funeral mass will be held on October 7 at 12 p.m. at Saint Ann Roman Catholic Church followed by burial at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery.
Further information may be found on Joseph Gawler's Sons website.

JOSEPH GAWLER'S SONS, LLC
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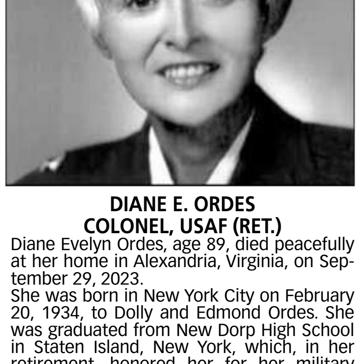
DEATH NOTICE

CRATER

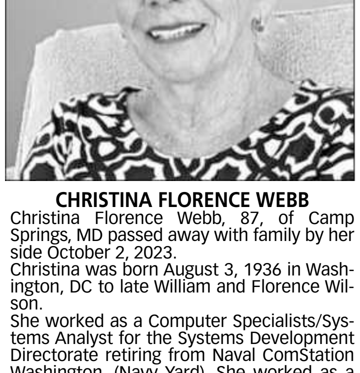
JULIA FRANCIS CRATER
JUNE 17, 1937 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
Julia "Julie" F. Crater, 86, of Potomac, MD passed away peacefully at home on September 11 surrounded by her family. Julie was born to the late Gerald McFadden Francis and Mona Keith Francis of Takoma Park, MD where she grew up with her three siblings. She was a graduate of Blair High School and The College of William and Mary. Education was very important to Julie which she instilled in her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed listening to all genres of music and began playing the piano at an early age. Julie shared her passion for music with the community by teaching piano lessons to members of the neighborhood, leaving a lasting legacy of melody and joy in those she taught. Throughout her life she was devoted to helping others and gave freely of her time and love. Family, friends and strangers were all beneficiaries of Julie's generosity and kindness. Her selflessness serves as a reminder of the power of kindness. Her grandchildren were the light of her life and recipients of "Honey's" unconditional love. She had a special relationship with each one and was devoted to their happiness and success. "Honey" recognized and celebrated their talents, achievements, successes, and pursuits. Her kindness, smile, and infectious laugh will be cherished memories for all who had the privilege of knowing her. Julie is survived by her husband of 65 years, Quincy M. Crater II "Chip", her sister Marian Long (Robert), her daughters Susan York (Tucker) and Cathryn White (Jon), and her seven amazing grandchildren – Ty, Quincy, Eloise and Brooke York, and Haley, Jack and Meredith White. She is preceded in death by her brothers, Don (Delores) and Jerry (Linda) Francis. A memorial service to celebrate Julie's life will be held on November 10, at 11 a.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd., Potomac, MD. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at www.bcrf.org. Please sign the guest book at:
www.DeVolFuneralHome.com

ORDES



DIANE E. ORDES
COLONEL, USAF (RET.)
Diane Evelyn Ordes, age 89, died peacefully at her home in Alexandria, Virginia, on September 29, 2023.
She was born in New York City on February 20, 1934, to Dolly and Edmond Ordes. She was graduated from New Dorp High School in Staten Island, New York, which, in her retirement, honored her for her military service and inspirational leadership. She earned a B.A. degree from Douglass College, New Jersey, and an M.A. from Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas.
Diane entered the Air Force in 1961. In her early assignments she worked in the personnel, recruiting, and education and training fields with duty in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Florida, and Thailand during the Vietnam War. She especially welcomed her demanding jobs as a commander. In 1970, she commanded a basic training squadron in Texas. In 1980, she was assigned as vice wing commander of Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC, and in 1983, she assumed responsibility as base commander at the enormous Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Diane also served two tours of duty in the Pentagon.
She retired after twenty-seven years of military service. Her awards included the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.
In retirement, Diane did volunteer work with the Women's Equity Action League and the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.
She combined her love of travel and music by attending, with other admirers of opera star Kiri Te Kanawa, the concerts of that artist around the world. She loved animals and supported organizations that protected them.
Survivors include her brother – and friend – Dale Edmond Ordes of Ballston Spa, New York, and his long-time partner, Joyce Singer; a nephew, Edmond, of New York, and his children, Ethel, Edmond, Monica, and Simone; and her many friends throughout the United States and world. She befriended forever colleagues, neighbors, and classmates and generously and joyfully shared with them her adventures, time, and love.
Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. Details will be published later. Donations in memory of Diane may be made to your local animal shelter.

WEBB



CHRISTINA FLORENCE WEBB
Christina Florence Webb, 87, of Camp Springs, MD passed away with family by her side October 2, 2023.
Christina was born August 3, 1936 in Washington, DC to late William and Florence Wilson.
She worked as a Computer Specialists/Systems Analyst for the Systems Development Directorate retiring from Naval ComStation Washington. (Navy Yard). She worked as a Computer Analyst for the Department of Navy from 1954-1994. (40 years). Her coworkers fondly remember her as an incredibly hard worker, often managing several projects at one time. She defined generosity, caring for coworkers as if family, even during their final days. As a mother, she sacrificed her own needs to ensure that all four of her children never had any concerns. As a single parent, in an era that this was rare, Christina was able to instill faith and confidence for her children.
In addition to her parents, Christina was preceded in death by William H. Wilson (twin brother), Shawn M. Webb (eldest son)
She is survived by her three children, Thomas W. Webb (Cornelia Jerman-Webb), Kevin K. Webb (Michelle Webb), and Amy B. Webb (Keith Cespon); five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
A visitation will be held 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Lee Funeral Home, 6633 Old Alexander Ferry Rd., Clinton, MD 20735 where a prayer service will take place from 1:45 p.m. to 2 p.m.
A funeral mass will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. followed by a gathering at Philip the Apostle Church, 5416 Henderson Way, Camp Springs, MD 20746.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Charities Archdiocese, 3211 Sacred Heart Way, Washington, DC 20010, 202-939-2400.

DEATH NOTICE

BENTON

JOHN F. BENTON
Executive, Smithsonian Institution
October 24, 1950 – September 19, 2023

Unexpectedly, with his husband and life partner, David Briggs, at his side, John passed away after a short illness at VHC Health in Arlington, Virginia.

They had been longtime residents of Arlington and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Which John Benton did you know?

Perhaps you knew John as the man who capped his career with a 20-year stint at one of the world's largest and most respected cultural institutions.

After holding increasingly senior positions in public service in Washington, DC, he found what he would later describe as his "dream job" – working for the Smithsonian Institution. In 2001, after a short detail to the Office of the Director, he became Associate Director for Management and Public Programs at the National Air and Space Museum. For 12 years, John performed so admirably that, shortly after he retired in 2013, the Smithsonian asked him to return to active duty in high-level positions four times, including as Deputy Undersecretary for Finance and Administration for the Institution.

Perhaps you knew John as the debonaire driver who piloted his imposing, prize-winning 1971 Pontiac Bonneville convertible through the streets of Rehoboth Beach and environs.

John loved cars, particularly this one, his cherished "Miss Dorothy." A deep green, she was housed in their garage with only a few inches to spare. Spotless and shining, this pampered beauty would cruise around at a stately, but impressive pace to thumbs-up and cheers from pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists alike.

Perhaps you knew John as a loyal Spider.
He was a proud University of Richmond alum who never tired of promoting and supporting his beloved alma mater. Only recently he had been elected to join the University's Alumni Board and served as co-chair of his 50th Anniversary Reunion Committee, helping to raise more than $2.0 million for the University.

Perhaps you knew John as a Virginia gentleman.
Kind and courtly, he acted with grace and flawless manners. His fine sense of humor showed in the frequent twinkle in his eye. He spoke with a soft Richmond lilt that could conceal a will of steel. No matter the occasion, he would send handwritten letters of thanks, congratulations, and condolence penned in his own unique and charming calligraphy.

Perhaps you knew John as a fellow leader or board member.
Over the years, John devoted himself to furthering the work of the Arlington Community Foundation, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Arlington Free Clinic, Signature Theatre, the Arlington Commission for the Arts, and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, as well as many more community and arts organizations.

Perhaps you knew John as a man who loved music.
John enjoyed both listening to and making choral and organ music. He loved to sing and did so with many groups including on tours in England, Australia, and New Zealand. A fervent pipe organ enthusiast, he relished every concert within his reach, and having all the stops of an organ pulled on so he could absorb its sound.

Perhaps you knew John as a man who warmly welcomed family and friends into his life.

John connected with people, whether over a dinner table, over a board table, or over a cool drink in a theater lobby. Once he made a connection, he kept you in mind and in his life, helping to connect you with others. With family and friends alike, those connections remained strong across distances and years. John treasured his many friends, celebrating their lives generously and with style.

Which leads to this: If you knew John, you know he never did anything halfway. He poured his energy and heart into striving for perfection in any endeavor, be it managing an illustrious institution or remembering your birthday.

John is survived by his loving husband, David. They had been together for 45 years, ten of those as a married couple. He is also survived by his uncle, Terry Turner, of Dinwiddie, Virginia; his niece, Vicky Bright, of Enid, Oklahoma; David's sister, Elaine Briggs (Carol Sheehan), of Bentonville, Arkansas, and David's brother, Corey Briggs (Donna), of Quincy, Massachusetts, in addition to many cousins, friends, former colleagues, and community members in Arlington, the greater Washington, DC area, Richmond, and Rehoboth Beach.

Services celebrating John's life will be held on October 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Washington, DC, 1328 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC, and on November 11, 2023, at 2 p.m. at River Road Church (Baptist), 8000 River Road, Richmond, VA. His ashes will be interred in River Road's columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in John's memory may be made to the "Benton-Briggs Endowed Fund for the Arts" of The Fund for Arlington Arts at the Arlington Community Foundation. The Fund for Arlington Arts was set up by John and David to support and advance the welfare and missions of the nonprofit arts in Arlington. Donations may be made by mail or through the Foundation's home page at www.arlcf.org.

HENLEY

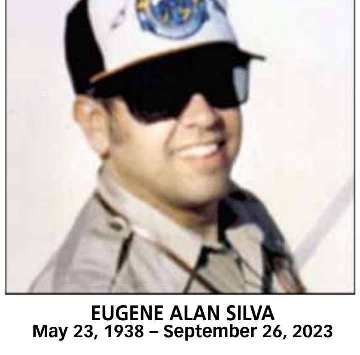
VERONICA JONES HENLEY "Ronnie"
On Sunday, September 17, 2023, Veronica, a DCPS teacher, international traveler, and a kind and giving person, reached the end of her earthly journey with family by her side.
With a degree from North Carolina Central University in 1968, Veronica began her teaching career, joined professional organizations including Delta Kappa Gamma, and served her beloved Sherman Avenue and Mount Pleasant Plains communities in Northwest D.C. and beyond. She leaves to honor her life her son, Todd Henley; sisters, Dr. Judith Jones Webb, Antoinette Jones Gorham, and Barbara Jones Jenkins (Thomas); brothers, Parker D. Jones, Jr. and Kenneth Jones; aunt, Harriet Jones Lee and uncle, Richard Lee Jones (Janice); and a grand host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other family, and friends.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 10 a.m. until time of her Celebration of Life Service at 11 a.m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 Allison Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20011. Interment will follow immediately on the grounds at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr., Pastor of D.C.'s The Greater First Baptist Church, will officiate. Ample parking is available on-site.
www.mcguire-services.com

RAGSDALE

NANCY NEALY RAGSDALE
Nancy Nealy Ragsdale passed away on October 2, 2023, at her home near Crozet, Virginia after a battle with lung cancer.
She is survived by her husband, William; her two daughters Nancy Virginia Ragsdale and Elizabeth Ragsdale Howard; and her two step-grandchildren Auston Lee Burgess and Shayla Burgess Barclay. She is predeceased by grandson, Theodore William Howard and son-in-law, Jeffrey Lee Burgess. Nancy was born on February 5, 1938, in Griffin, Georgia. She graduated from Griffin High School and attended Emory University where she became a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She married William in 1959 and moved to Connecticut, where she graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a BS in general science and chemistry. After moving to Silver Spring, Maryland, she completed her education at the University of Maryland, receiving MS and PhD degrees in botany. While she spent part of her professional career at the University of Maryland, she spent most of her career at the U S Department of Agriculture, where she was involved with research, policy, and regulations related to agricultural pesticides. An active member of the American Chemical Society, she held the office of Chairman of the Agrochemical Division and other offices. After retirement, Nancy conducted tours as a docent at the U S Botanic Garden. She loved family, flowers, gardening, ballet, swimming, bicycling, and visits to England.
A graveside service will be held at Mountain Plain Cemetery near Crozet, Virginia at 11 a.m. on October 21, 2023. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Friends of the U S Botanic Garden, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, or your favorite charity.

SILVA



EUGENE ALAN SILVA
May 23, 1938 – September 26, 2023

Eugene A. Silva, Ph.D., quietly passed away on September 26, 2023 in Fairfax County, Virginia. He was 85.

Dr. Silva was born in Oakland, California. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Stanford University, and was awarded his Ph.D. in naval architecture/ocean engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Leaving California, Dr. Silva joined a small cadre of specialists to help form the Navy SEABEE's Underwater Construction Teams, which he considered one of the most rewarding professional endeavors of his life.

In the late 1970's, Dr. Silva began a campaign to get the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to provide basic research support for Navy offshore construction. His ongoing effort was rewarded in 1978 when he was offered the position of program manager for ONR's Ocean Technology Program. This began a 20 year career at ONR in a wide variety of positions that included rather reluctant service as a member of the Senior Executive Service.

As an ONR program manager, Dr. Silva was involved in research efforts with major naval relevance and public interest. One such program involved the development of an undersea search system for finding objects on the seafloor based on studies done from the ONR research submersible, ALVIN. During the early trials of the system, Dr. Robert Ballard (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) found the wreck of the RMS TITANIC.

Another project that received considerable Navy and public attention was the development of the Arsenal Ship—a new, innovative ship requested by the Chief of Naval Operations that offered theater commanders new, unique capabilities. Dr. Silva was a program manager and the spokesman for the project.

Dr. Silva retired from the Department of Navy in 1998 after 30 years of service, including four years in uniform. He received many awards and commendations, including the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 1997.

Retirement opened time for new opportunities to Dr. Silva, who was a lifelong learner and voracious reader. While aviation and prehistoric archaeology were his prime retirement interests, he also pursued learning the Navajo language, and playing the Navajo flute. Dr. Silva attributed his lifelong interest in Native Americans to the elite firefighter Hotshot crew (most of which were Native Americans), who he worked with during his summer breaks from college.

In retirement, Dr. Silva learned to fly fixed-wing planes and helicopters. He was a regular at Manassas, Warrenton, and Culpeper airports, and especially enjoyed WWII flyins, and visiting hangars where he helped friends who were building experimental airplanes.

A few years ago, Dr. Silva left a note for the executor of his will. He said that his life had been "a good ride" and then closed the note with the following message for the family, friends, and colleagues he would leave behind:

"And now, Eugene Alan Silva leaves us with the hope that you will have a very good time of it while you are here; that some of you will do good science and engineering; that some of you will fly the perfect loop or landing; and, that all of you will enjoy the oceans and great outdoors and what the creatures who inhabit them have to offer."

The service at Quantico National Cemetery for Dr. Silva will be private. To honor his memory, please consider a donation to a nonprofit charity such as:

American Indian Science and Engineering Society www.aises.org
or Oceana www.Oceana.org

Funeral arrangements are being made by Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home (https://www.fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Eugene-Alan-Silva-Phd?o-bId=29385813#/obituaryInfo) where you will find a place to share memories and photos of Dr. Silva.

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

THE WEATHER

WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WEATHER · TWITTER: @CAPITALWEATHER · FACEBOOK.COM/CAPITALWEATHER

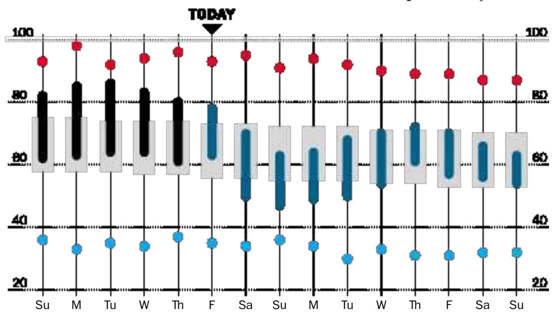
One more toasty day

Under a mix of sun and clouds, highs are close to 80. Maybe a shower or two late in the day as a front approaches from the west. It will mainly pass at night, with minimal impact other than cooler temperatures for the weekend.

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Humid, shower	Showers	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny
78° 63°	70° 50°	63° 47°	64° 49°	68° 50°	70° 54°
FEELS*: 78°	FEELS: 70°	FEELS: 62°	FEELS: 61°	FEELS: 68°	FEELS: 75°
CHNCE PRECIP: 80%	P: 55%	P: 10%	P: 20%	P: 15%	P: 15%
WIND: SE 7–14 mph	W: WNW 10–20 mph	W: W 10–20 mph	W: SW 8–16 mph	W: WSW 6–12 mph	W: NW 3–6 mph
HUMIDITY: High	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: Moderate

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

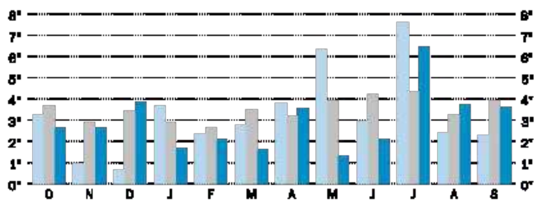


Statistics through 5 p.m. Thursday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**80°** 2:50 p.m.	**80°** 4:00 p.m.	**81°** 3:14 p.m.
Low	**61°** 6:14 a.m.	**53°** 5:00 a.m.	**54°** 5:50 a.m.
Normal	74°/57°	72°/50°	72°/51°
Record high	96° 1941	90° 2013	97° 1941
Record low	37° 1935	32° 1970	35° 1996

Difference from 30-yr. avg. (National): this month: **+7.2°** yr. to date: **+1.9°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"
Total this month	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"
Normal	0.60"	0.63"	0.68"
Total this year	26.09"	25.87"	31.17"
Normal	32.44"	33.79"	34.90"

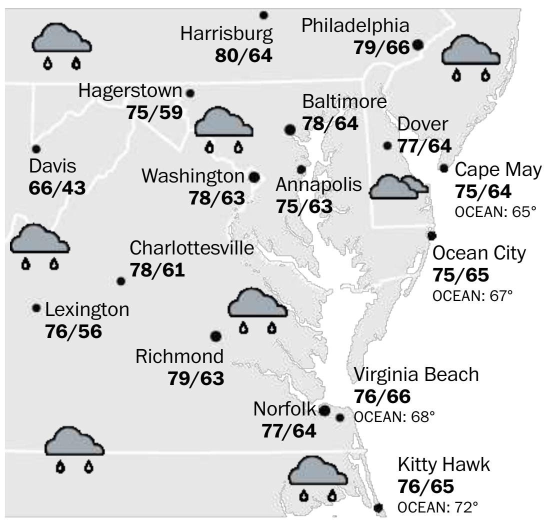
Moon Phases

Oct 6	Oct 14	Oct 21	Oct 28
Last Quarter	New	First Quarter	Full

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	7:08 a.m.	6:43 p.m.
Moon	11:59 p.m.	2:57 p.m.
Venus	3:29 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Mars	8:15 a.m.	7:16 p.m.
Jupiter	8:05 p.m.	9:49 a.m.
Saturn	5:04 p.m.	3:47 a.m.

REGION



Pollen: High
Grass Low
Trees Low
Weeds Low
Mold High

Air Quality: Good
Dominant cause: Ozone

UV: Low
2 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, plenty of clouds; a little rain this afternoon, but dry in central parts. Turning much cooler over the coming days. High 59 to 68. Winds south-southwest 4–8 mph. Tonight, cloudy, a stray shower. Low 47 to 51. Winds west 4–8 mph.

Atlantic beaches: Today, mostly cloudy, humid, a shower. High 74 to 78. Winds northeast 6–12 mph. Tonight, cloudy; humid in the south. Low 63 to 67. Winds north-northwest 4–8 mph. Saturday, breezy, a shower or two. High 70 to 74.

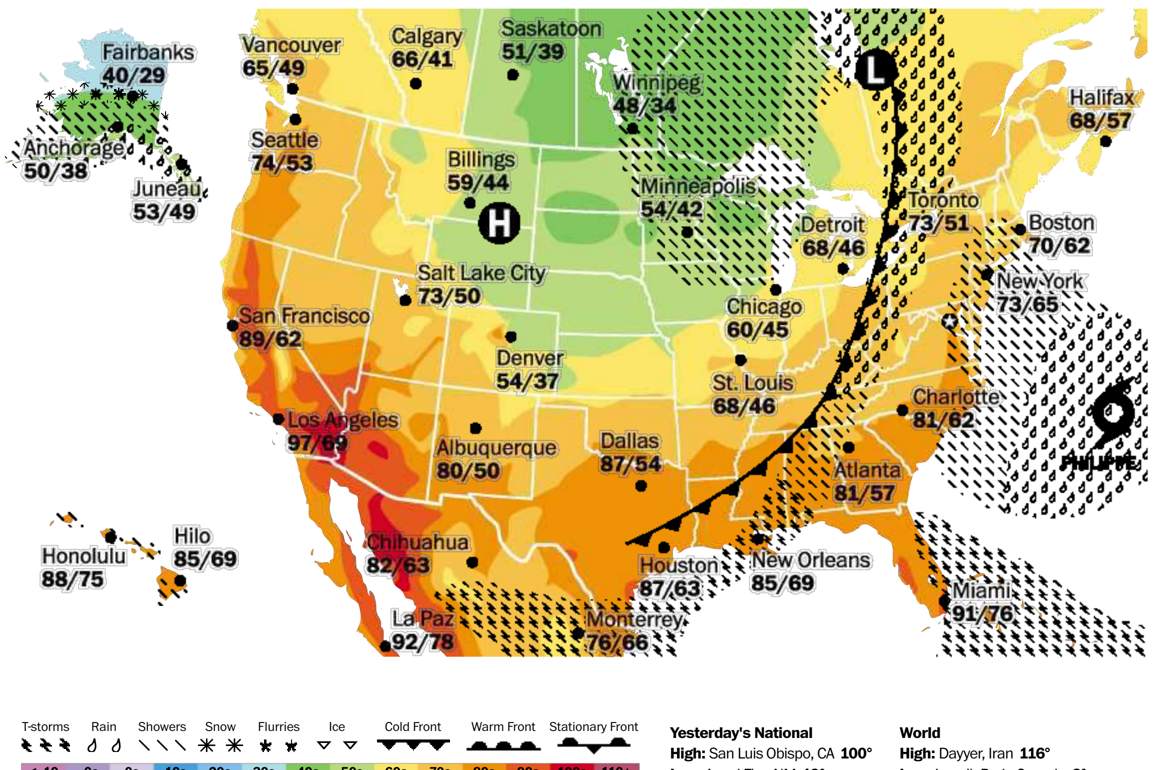
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, cloudy. Wind southeast 4–8 knots. Waves less than a foot. Visibility unrestricted. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, high clouds. Wind southeast 4–8 knots. Waves 0–1 foot on the Lower Potomac; 1–2 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 2.70 feet today, with no change of 2.70 Saturday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	**1:46 a.m.**	9:16 a.m.	**2:34 p.m.**	9:00 p.m.
Annapolis	6:02 a.m.	**10:48 a.m.**	5:18 p.m.	**none**
Ocean City	**1:11 a.m.**	7:20 a.m.	**1:51 p.m.**	8:41 p.m.
Norfolk	**3:20 a.m.**	9:23 a.m.	**3:51 p.m.**	10:45 p.m.
Point Lookout	2:28 a.m.	**7:20 a.m.**	1:06 p.m.	**8:22 p.m.**

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



Yesterday's National
High: San Luis Obispo, CA **100°**
Low: Angel Fire, NM **19°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Dayyer, Iran **116°**
Low: Ivvavik Park, Canada **2°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	73/63/c	66/48/r
Albuquerque	80/50/s	75/53/pc
Anchorage	50/38/r	50/37/pc
Atlanta	81/57/c	69/48/s
Austin	88/59/pc	77/50/pc
Baltimore	78/64/c	71/49/sh
Billings, MT	59/44/s	74/47/s
Birmingham	79/52/c	70/45/s
Bismarck, ND	50/30/pc	65/42/s
Boise	76/50/s	79/51/s
Boston	70/62/c	67/54/r
Buffalo	69/52/r	58/44/sh
Burlington, VT	75/61/c	68/46/r
Charleston, SC	82/64/c	81/51/pc
Charleston, WV	69/48/r	59/40/pc
Charlotte	81/62/c	72/42/s
Cheyenne, WY	50/34/s	72/41/s
Chicago	60/45/pc	57/43/pc
Cincinnati	71/43/r	57/40/pc
Cleveland	70/47/r	57/46/sh
Dallas	87/54/s	73/54/s
Denver	54/37/s	74/46/s
Des Moines	54/39/sh	58/41/s
Detroit	68/46/pc	56/41/sh
El Paso	86/62/c	80/57/s
Fairbanks, AK	40/29/sn	37/24/sf
Fargo, ND	56/36/sh	58/39/pc
Hartford, CT	72/62/c	67/49/r
Honolulu	88/75/pc	90/74/r
Houston	87/63/pc	77/53/pc
Indianapolis	69/44/pc	57/39/pc
Jackson, MS	85/54/pc	73/45/s
Jacksonville, FL	85/66/c	85/50/pc
Kansas City, MO	59/39/pc	61/42/s
Las Vegas	91/66/s	91/67/s
Little Rock	79/50/s	68/46/s
Los Angeles	97/69/s	92/63/s
Louisville	75/46/c	64/43/pc
Memphis	78/49/pc	66/47/s
Miami	91/76/sh	92/74/pc
Milwaukee	61/46/sh	57/45/pc
Minneapolis	54/42/sh	54/45/pc
Nashville	80/48/c	65/42/s
New Orleans	85/69/t	79/61/pc
New York City	73/65/r	67/50/r
Norfolk	77/64/pc	73/51/sh
Oklahoma City	76/41/s	66/46/s
Omaha	57/38/sh	60/41/s
Orlando	90/73/pc	88/66/s
Philadelphia	79/66/c	71/51/r
Phoenix	105/79/pc	103/75/pc
Pittsburgh	71/48/r	57/43/sh
Portland, ME	66/58/c	64/54/r
Portland, OR	83/58/s	82/57/s
Providence, RI	73/62/c	67/50/r
Raleigh, NC	80/61/c	73/46/pc
Reno, NV	81/48/s	85/49/s
Richmond	79/63/c	74/49/pc
Sacramento	93/56/s	94/55/s
St. Louis	68/46/pc	64/46/s
St. Thomas, VI	90/81/pc	91/79/pc
Salt Lake City	73/50/s	77/52/s
San Diego	83/62/pc	81/64/pc
San Francisco	89/62/s	84/58/s
San Juan, PR	92/79/t	93/78/pc
Seattle	74/53/pc	78/55/s
Spokane, WA	73/48/s	76/49/s
Syracuse	75/56/r	63/48/r
Tampa	90/75/pc	88/69/pc
Wichita	64/37/pc	66/44/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	75/50/pc	76/52/s
Amsterdam	68/62/c	69/55/pc
Athens	81/67/s	79/61/s
Auckland	64/51/pc	62/49/sh
Baghdad	91/73/pc	96/73/pc
Bangkok	91/78/t	90/79/t
Beijing	74/50/c	75/53/pc
Berlin	66/59/pc	65/48/r
Bogota	67/50/r	68/50/sh
Brussels	68/53/pc	72/55/s
Buenos Aires	75/54/s	68/56/s
Cairo	89/71/pc	87/72/pc
Caracas	79/65/t	79/65/t
Copenhagen	63/54/c	58/43/c
Dakar	90/80/pc	91/80/c
Dublin	68/59/c	72/58/pc
Edinburgh	61/54/r	56/49/r
Frankfurt	68/46/pc	73/53/pc
Geneva	70/46/pc	72/50/s
Ham., Bermuda	83/76/r	84/76/t
Helsinki	51/42/pc	46/34/r
Ho Chi Minh City	90/78/t	91/76/t
Hong Kong	90/74/c	81/71/c
Islamabad	93/68/s	92/69/s
Istanbul	75/64/s	76/59/pc
Jerusalem	80/61/s	79/61/pc
Johannesburg	90/59/pc	89/62/s
Kabul	79/57/sh	80/56/s
Kingston, Jam.	91/79/t	90/79/t
Kolkata	90/80/c	92/80/c
Kyiv	61/46/s	64/46/sh
Lagos	86/76/t	85/76/r
Lima	71/62/c	69/60/pc
Lisbon	92/66/pc	91/64/s
London	71/56/pc	75/55/s
Madrid	88/61/s	88/59/s
Manila	88/77/t	89/78/t
Mexico City	80/59/s	73/58/sh
Montreal	74/61/c	64/50/r
Moscow	51/34/sh	50/36/r
Mumbai	90/78/pc	89/79/pc
Nairobi	82/59/pc	83/56/pc
New Delhi	97/77/s	97/77/s
Oslo	56/40/r	54/34/pc
Ottawa	70/56/r	62/44/r
Paris	73/47/pc	76/51/s
Prague	66/51/pc	67/49/c
Rio de Janeiro	79/74/c	94/76/pc
Riyadh	102/73/pc	103/77/s
Rome	79/61/s	80/59/s
San Salvador	84/70/t	86/71/r
Santiago	66/41/pc	73/43/s
Sarajevo	70/40/pc	72/43/pc
Seoul	72/48/pc	74/57/pc
Shanghai	78/66/c	72/61/c
Singapore	92/80/pc	92/80/t
Stockholm	51/37/r	45/33/s
Sydney	67/55/pc	65/54/pc
Taipei City	88/77/r	90/75/r
Tehran	74/60/s	77/61/s
Tokyo	77/65/s	76/62/pc
Toronto	73/51/r	60/45/sh
Vienna	70/48/s	75/62/pc
Warsaw	62/57/c	63/45/c

Key: s-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**- showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

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Kornelia Stuphan 202-669-5555

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1138 Basil Road
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Fouad Talout 703-459-4141

MCLEAN, VA | $3,875,000
1415 Kurtz Road
5 BR | 5 BA | 2 HBA | 7,099 SQ FT | 0.46 AC
Lilian Jorgenson 703-407-0766

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Wendy Banner 301-365-9090

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730 South River Landing Road
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Michele Cordle 410-562-8680

CHEVY CHASE, MD | $2,695,000
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Melinda Estridge 301-657-9700

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Elaine Koch 301-840-7320

WASHINGTON, DC | $2,399,900
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Barak Sky 301-742-5759

BETHESDA, MD | $2,399,000
7710 Woodmont Avenue, Unit 1110
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,559 SQ FT
Jamie Coley 202-669-1331

POTOMAC, MD | $1,990,000
10511 S Glen Road
7 BR | 5 BA | 5,746 SQ FT | 2 AC
Michelle Yu 240-888-5076

BETHESDA, MD | $1,895,000
6204 Madawaska Road
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 4,000 SQ FT | NEW CONSTRUCTION
Joe Faraji 240-274-7000

KENSINGTON, MD | $1,895,000
10207 Parkwood Drive
5 BR | 4 BA | 1 HBA | 5,200 SQ FT | NEW CONSTRUCTION
Alexa Goulding 301-675-2241

WASHINGTON, DC | $1,649,000
1871 Monroe Street NW
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 2,188 SQ FT | 0.05 AC
Joseph Bernstein 301-367-0507

GREENBACKVILLE, VA | $999,000
3349 Blackbeard Road
5 BR | 4 BA | 3,396 SQ FT | 0.38 AC
Meghan Clarkson 757-894-0798

BLOXOM, VA | $975,000
16409 Hopeland Way
4 BR | 3 BA | 1 HBA | 4,191 SQ FT | 3.8 AC
Meghan Clarkson 757-894-0798

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4451 Main Street
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GIONCARLO VALENTINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; WARDROBE STYLING, HAIR AND MAKEUP BY THE TEKNIQUE GROUP

Viola Fletcher's long wait

Oldest living survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre is still pushing for reparations

BY **WESLEY LOWERY** IN TULSA

Her mother's scream awoke the 7-year-old girl just moments after she'd drifted off to sleep. "Vi! Get up, child. If we don't leave right now, we could end up dead."

What Viola Fletcher witnessed that night in 1921 has haunted her for a century. Her entire childhood had been set ablaze. Families fled Tulsa's bustling Greenwood district as torches flew through their windows. Explosives rained from low-flying planes that cut across a smoke-darkened sky above. Bodies piled along the roadside — some eyes still open, forever frozen on the terror — as soot stuck to the air like dark bitter snowflakes. Fletcher watched a man with a shotgun blow a neighbor's head from his shoulders, she writes in "Don't Let Them Bury My Story," a memoir published this year.

Fletcher, her family, and their entire neighborhood were the victims of a lie. Their lives were upended and livelihoods destroyed when hundreds of enraged White residents rioted after accusations that a 19-year-old Black man had assaulted a 17-year-old White girl, followed by inflammatory coverage of the alleged incident in the Tulsa Tribune. The man was arrested, and the accusations were false. The 16-hour terror left hundreds dead, thousands displaced and a stretch of 35 square blocks of Greenwood — a neighborhood so prosperous it was dubbed "Black Wall Street" — reduced to ash. Gone were offices of Black dentists, doctors, lawyers, real estate brokers and insurance salesmen. Black-owned theaters, newspapers, groceries, restaurants, hotels and barbershops were all burned to the ground.

"The neighborhood I fell asleep in that night was rich — not just in terms of wealth but in culture, community, heritage, and my family had a beautiful home," Fletcher testified to Congress in 2021. "Within a few hours, all that was gone."

SEE **FLETCHER** ON **C2**

UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Viola Fletcher, 109, photographed Aug. 24. As a 7-year-old, Fletcher survived racial violence in Tulsa that over 16 hours left hundreds dead and decimated a once-prosperous Black community. ABOVE: Part of Tulsa's Greenwood district after the massacre in June 1921.

Inside the orbit of a UFO testifier

BY **ALEX HAWGOOD**

David Grusch landed at Dulles International Airport on July 25, the day before he would testify under oath to Congress that the U.S. government is secretly handling extraterrestrial technology. The former intelligence officer was not picked up by his lawyer, I. Charles McCullough III, a former inspector general for the nation's intelligence community. Nor was Grusch swept up by a posse of national-security pros or old-school publicists.

Instead, Grusch, who is 6-foot-6, squeezed into the back of a dark SUV with a pair of YouTube creators who had the air of intellectual frat dudes: Ammar Kandil, 29, a founder of Yes Theory, a "digital-storytelling" collective with a huge fan base and an array of affirmational stunt videos; and Jesse Michels, 31, an investor in Peter Thiel's technology ventures who hosts an interview series with "heretical thinkers" such as the cosmic philosopher Jacques Vallée, on whom Steven Spielberg based a key character in his 1977 film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

The whistleblower and the influencers seemed like natural collaborators. Yes Theory's motto is "seek discomfort." And Grusch, 36, was about to make Washington uncomfortable.

"How do you expect this to go?" Michels asked Grusch on the ride into Washington.

Grusch worried that his testimony, limited by security-clearance red tape, might be a letdown for those versed on the topic of unidentified aerial phenomena (or UAP, the modern term for UFO). Grusch said that while deplaning moments earlier, he had still been pleading with the Pentagon's security office to clear more material for public consumption.

"Shouldn't it be the president saying this stuff?" Grusch said, glancing out the window of the SUV, cameras capturing his prehearing jitters. "Like, I don't want to be the purveyor of disclosure because I don't have all the data."

This behind-the-scenes peek at Grusch's visit to Washington is part of "Close Encounters of the Human Kind," a documentary by Kandil, who stars with Michels as confidants to Grusch in the days before and after his visit to Congress. As Grusch was testifying under oath about "Non-Human Reverse Engineering Programs," he also was starring in his own personal odyssey through mod-

SEE **GRUSCH** ON **C3**

For hire: Worst job in D.C.

BY **KARA VOGHT** AND **JESÚS RODRÍGUEZ**

Just before the workday ended on Tuesday, a hot new job dropped on the Washington market. "The U.S. House of Representatives seeks a Speaker of the House based in Washington D.C.," wrote the job-search website Daybook on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Yearly salary: $223,500."

The posting was a gag, but the vacancy is very real. The House is desperately in need of a speaker. Anyone interested?

"After yesterday? *No,*" said Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-N.Y.) on Wednesday afternoon, speaking for himself.

"Anyone who would want this job right now is crazy," said Rep. Garret Graves (R-La.), once he stopped laughing.

"I can certainly say that it takes a very special kind of person who wants to walk into this," said Rep. Marcus J. Molinaro (R-N.Y.).

Let's recap. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who sat through 15 rounds of voting in January to get the speaker job thanks to a stubborn faction on the GOP's right flank, got dumped by a coalition of ticked-off colleagues, which included eight members of his own caucus. The weapon: a motion to vacate, the threshold for which was eased by McCarthy in a concession made while trying to build support for his speakership that had essentially made him a hostage to his in-party rivals even after he got the gavel. McCarthy, an incurable smiler, kept a half-grin on his face as the House clerk called upon each lawmaker to decide his fate. It stayed plastered there even when he began to fidget — flicking his phone screen, rubbing the grooves of his wooden chair — as the roll call revealed his speakership was over. Afterward he greeted well-wishers like an usher at his own funeral.

SEE **SPEAKER** ON **C3**

FASHION

In Paris, Fashion Week hits peak girl

BY **RACHEL TASHJIAN**

PARIS — Editors, influencers and fashion commentators have spent the past few days expressing dismay over the deluge of White male creative directors at fashion houses, following the appointment of former JW Anderson designer Sean McGirr to Alexander McQueen, which had been designed since 2010 by Sarah Burton.

But on the last day of Paris Fashion Week, girl power was firing on all cylinders.

Tuesday offered a trio of shows from female designers that showed the pleasures of being a girl, the little struggles and moments of frazzledness to which many women might relate. Much of popular culture has coalesced around this moment of peak girl — Taylor Swift and Beyoncé's unprecedented concert success, the record-breaking performance of "Barbie" and even a new eating habit called "girl dinner." Somehow, fashion, which is supposed to be all about the future, remains behind — which is what made a day of shows by Virginie Viard of Chanel, Laura and Deanna Fanning at Kiko Kostadinov, and Miuccia Prada at Miu Miu feel so relevant.

Maybe no designer better understands the way you want to dress if you're young, unstoppable and fabulously wealthy than Viard. Clients arrive doused in Chanel, their eyes widening at the sight of Usher, Chris Rock, Brie Larson and Penélope Cruz (and each others' handbags). Viard has an impressive ability to create clothes that look delightful and

SEE **FASHION** ON **C3**

MOVIES IN WEEKEND

She Came to Me
★★½☆
Labored but joyful comedy of manners. **28**

The Exorcist: Believer
★★½☆
A dutifully unsettling reboot of a classic. **29**

The Storms of Jeremy Thomas
★★½☆
A producer looks back but not inward. **30**

GIONCARLO VALENTINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Viola Fletcher is a key witness for a rising national movement

FLETCHER FROM **C1**

In the years that followed, Fletcher's family lived in a tent about an hour north of the city, settling into a new life as sharecroppers, lucky to earn a dollar for a day of handling livestock or picking cotton. Family members would often jolt awake, screaming about fire falling from the sky. When she was 16, Fletcher moved back to Tulsa, where "streets that bustled with life just a few years ago now carried the weight of trauma," she writes. "The destruction," she continues, "was just the visible version of the scars that were inside of us."

Fletcher fled again, this time to California, where she took a shipyard job to support the war effort. She married, but when her husband turned abusive, set off again on her own. Before long, she was back in Oklahoma, a single mother of three with a fourth-grade education, working as a maid to some of Tulsa's richest White families.

As she washed their dishes and tucked their little ones into bed, she wondered whether they were among those responsible, yet never held accountable, for her own childhood's destruction.

For as long as slavery has been outlawed in America, there have been Black Americans demanding compensation for the horrors of the institution and its vestiges. But in the years since the police killing of George Floyd, local governments, civil rights attorneys and activists have embraced the cause of financial redress with a new fervor and ambition: According to activists, there are more than 100 local efforts underway across the country.

Although many of these efforts, such as housing and economic stimulus programs, fall short of what purists would consider "reparations" — that is, direct payments to descendants of those who were victims of historic racial sins — they've nevertheless contributed to an era of redress.

"This is certainly one of the most significant moments in the history of the United States," said Ron Daniels, who leads the National African American Reparations Commission, a collaborative of activists and academics. Daniels notes that Tulsa, "one of the most egregious wounds in the history of Black people in this country," remains a key reparations battleground.

"If there is [any] case for a local reparations initiative for the harms faced by the Black community and the legacies of slavery, it's Tulsa, Oklahoma," said Robin Rue Simmons, who as a member of the Evanston, Ill., city council championed one of the first local redress efforts, which this year began making $25,000 payments to a few dozen Black residents.

And so, on the second Wednesday in May this year, Viola Fletcher spent the morning of her 109th birthday in the front row of a seventh-floor courtroom at the Tulsa courthouse. She had dressed elegantly — her green-and-white blouse poking out from beneath the tan-and-white scarf wrapped around her shoulders for warmth — and sat silently, at times leaning forward in her wheelchair as she waited to learn whether the lawsuit that is probably her last living chance at justice would be allowed to proceed. To her right sat Lessie Benningfield Randle, 108, who was 6 years old when the mob burned her house to the ground and drove her family from Greenwood, and between them sat Fletcher's younger brother Hughes "Uncle Red" Van Ellis, 102, who at times dabbed tears from his eyes with an aging white handkerchief.

"There were over 10,000 people that suffered, these are the three that's left. No one had a day in court. They just want a day in court," attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons pleaded to the judge as he gestured back toward the galley where the survivors sat.

"She had to escape this inferno," he added later, pointing to Fletcher and then back up at the black-and-white photos of the charred wreckage that were being projected onto a screen hung from the courtroom's side wall. "One hundred and two years later, she has to be here in court."

Fletcher's case is the second time in recent decades in which a court has considered compensation for those who survived the inferno. The first came in 2003, when a legal team led by Johnnie Cochran, Charles Ogletree and John Hope Franklin filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of 123 survivors and more than 200 descendants. There were government defendants clearly culpable for the crime, thanks to a 1997 bipartisan commission which concluded that local law enforcement had provided firearms to the White rioters. But in Oklahoma, civil rights claims carry a two-year statute of limitations, meaning that the suit would have had to have been filed in 1923, and the case for a waiver was denied.

In 2007, Solomon-Simmons (who clerked for Olgetree as a law student) and others pursued congressional legislation that would have removed the statute of limitations in the case, but the bill never made it out of committee. "Our momentum really hit a halt," he recalled recently. "A lot of the survivors were dying." By 2016, fewer than 20 remained, and with each passing year the list was whittled down further. Each year, around the anniversary, he would publish an op-ed calling for redress, but justice seemed an increasingly distant fantasy.

Then, in May 2020, Solomon-Simmons stumbled upon the story of Viola Fletcher.

For decades, many of the massacre's victims feared that the perpetrators would harm them again if they ever spoke about it publicly. Fletcher told me she still slept with a light on, curled up in a living room chair pointed toward the door of her apartment — ready, if necessary, to make another escape. She never talked about what she had survived with anyone.

"They were told by their parents that if they discussed it, they would be killed," explains Ike Howard, Fletcher's grandson, who after many years finally got her to acknowledge that she had witnessed the massacre — but only on the explicit condition that he not repeat the tale. "You had a situation where the local government had endorsed this behavior, and these criminals got away. … This is one generation removed from slavery; the threat of violence if they talked about what happened was something they took seriously."

But in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, Fletcher agreed to let her loved ones tell the local news about the drive-by birthday parade they threw to celebrate her 106th birthday, inadvertently outing her as the oldest living survivor of the massacre just one year before its centennial. "I told them I didn't want a birthday party," she quipped to a local television reporter. "But what did I get? Oh my goodness."

From there, it didn't take long for Solomon-Simmons to track her down, and she agreed to join his pursuit of reparations — becoming a plaintiff in a civil suit filed in 2020 demanding financial redress from the city, county and other municipal entities that participated in the destruction. "She was still afraid," Howard recalled, adding that he and other family members were able to convince her they would handle her security and that, as more time passed and she spoke out more frequently, she became more comfortable. "She know I don't play about my grandmother."

NICK OXFORD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Viola Fletcher and her grandson Ike Howard in August at Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library. ABOVE: Attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons is representing Fletcher in her effort at accountability for the violence that convulsed Tulsa in 1921.

As the case began making its way through court, the 100th anniversary of the massacre brought a wave of attention, and money, to Tulsa. More than $30 million was spent constructing a historical center, and events commemorated the date. Fletcher testified before Congress, was honored in Ghana and began working on her memoir. Moved by media coverage of their ongoing battle for justice, New York philanthropist Ed Mitzen gave $1 million to Fletcher and the other living survivors. Fletcher left her one-bedroom apartment and moved into one of the nicest nursing homes in the state.

Still, Solomon-Simmons is quick to note, none of this amounted to redress. In fact, he says that one foundation told him directly that there was "no appetite" among local philanthropy for providing the survivors with money that could be passed on to their children and grandchildren.

"The reality is that, in the United States of America, the only time Black people in particular have ever received any justice has been through litigation," said Tulsa City Councilwoman Vanessa Hall-Harper, who helped spearhead an apology issued by the city of Tulsa two years ago. As attorneys argued publicly for compensation, Black members of the Tulsa City Council moved to capitalize on the centennial — introducing a bill issuing a formal apology and agreeing to hold community sessions on what, if anything else, the city owes to survivors of the massacre and their descendants.

The sessions, dubbed "After Apology," were led in part by Greg Robinson, a local activist who still remembers his father pointing out blight and redevelopment in Greenwood through the car window as they drove past, saying "they are building buildings on top of your ancestor's homes." Each session included an overview of the historical record (and the long fight to establish it) and an analysis of the racial inequities that persist in Tulsa today. More than 500 people participated in total, about 35 percent of whom were White, although it remains unclear what, if any, action will result from the process.

"It's almost like 'House of Cards' on a political level," said Keith Young, a political strategist and former elected official in Asheville, N.C., where he helped spawn reparations efforts. Young consulted with Black lawmakers in Tulsa as they debated how to navigate the issue. "They are never going to call it reparations, and it ain't reparations. It's not. It's a Trojan horse."

The concept of reparations is broadly unpopular: Seventy percent of Americans in a May Washington Post-Ipsos poll said that the federal government should not pay money to Black Americans whose ancestors were enslaved. That's especially true when the would-be recipients are Black, notes Tatishe Nteta, a political scientist and pollster at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A key factor in opposition, his research shows, is that some Americans (28 percent) do not believe that Black Americans deserve to be compensated. "It's all about deservingness," Nteta said. "It's really informed by negative racial views and stereotypes of African Americans, and what they would do with the money." A 75 percent majority of Black Americans support the federal government paying reparations.

The short-term workaround, Nteta and others note, is to pursue reparations and redress programs in liberal cities and safely Democratic states in order to set precedent and build momentum that could spread nationally, much like legalized marijuana and same-sex marriage. Even if some local redress programs are not technically reparations, "I like to tell people that they're cousins. At the heart of it we're still talking about addressing the results of racism," says attorney Areva Martin, who represents hundreds of survivors and descendants of "Section 14," a one-square-mile tract in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., razed in the mid-1960s to make way for development. That case is part of a wave of efforts that have made California an epicenter of the current movement for reparations and redress.

That makes Tulsa an even more crucial battleground: a majority-White, Republican-run southern city where there remain living victims of a historic injustice.

"We're on borrowed time. Every year that we don't get economic justice for Black people, generations behind us are being set further and further behind," said Robinson. "If you can get it done in Tulsa, it just sets up so beautifully for a national model."

Viola Fletcher's lawsuit was designed as a bit of a legal bank shot. Because the civil rights claim had been tossed in the early 2000s, Solomon-Simmons modeled his effort on a 2019 suit filed by the Oklahoma attorney general's office against Johnson & Johnson under the state's public nuisance law, an effort that successfully argued that the drugmaker had fueled the opioid epidemic with deceptive marketing of painkillers.

The city, state and law enforcement agencies had aided the violence in Tulsa, Solomon-Simmons argued, and that violence and destruction still directly contributed to the inequitable reality experienced by residents of Greenwood today. Government attorneys argued the case was an attempt at dodging the statute-of-limitations issues and should be dismissed. Ultimately, in May 2022, Tulsa County District Judge Caroline Wall allowed it to move forward.

"I've seen so many survivors die in my 20-plus years working on this issue," Solomon-Simmons said, choking back tears as he addressed the media following the ruling. "I just don't want to see the last three die without justice."

The legal proceedings stretched on until this May's hearing, after which Uncle Red declared "we're going to win" from his wheelchair as the legal team gathered in the hallway. Fletcher was less confident, sitting in silence as she stretched her neck to point her one remaining good ear toward the conversation among her attorneys.

Wall announced that she wanted more time to make her ruling, but the decision stretched from days to weeks — which Fletcher and her family took as an ominous sign. "There is a sense," Fletcher's grandson remarked as the family waited, "that they are waiting for someone to die. That they're hoping someone will die."

It was another two months before word came out, late on a Friday evening in July: Wall came down in favor of the defendants, tossing the public nuisance claim. Solomon-Simmons said he heard about the ruling when a local reporter reached out to ask for comment.

Fletcher and her family were heartbroken. Their supporters were enraged. Solomon-Simmons and his team quickly began preparing an appeal. During a phone interview a few weeks later, Fletcher was direct and emphatic when asked if she still believed she had a chance of seeing justice in her lifetime: "Yes, yes, yes."

A few weeks after that, in early August, her attorney called with a new hope: The state Supreme Court had decided to take up the case. The century-long fight was alive again.

CIRCA IMAGES/GHI/UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

Buildings burn in Tulsa's Greenwood in June 1921. "The neighborhood I fell asleep in that night was rich," Fletcher said of the community she had grown up in. "Within a few hours, all that was gone."

Who wants to be the next speaker? Not many, apparently.

SPEAKER FROM **C1**

"I made history, didn't I?" McCarthy, the first speaker to be removed from the chair, quipped to reporters during his 48-minute exit interview.

Anyway, back to that exciting job opportunity.

Pay? Not bad, for government work. Office culture? … We'll get back to that. The job comes with some perks. "Big office, police escort, second in line to the presidency, get to be called 'speaker' for the rest of your life," said former speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) from his home.

Is the legacy title that good of a perk?

"Well, you know, sometimes it helps you at a restaurant."

Official Washington is a title town where honorifics, once conferred, never expire. Speaker is a rare designation among the Representatives or Senators, an even bigger deal than Secretary or Ambassador. The Speaker is second in the presidential line of succession. Second! There are fewer living Speakers than living Justices. And it's a position of prestige that comes with actual power. The Speaker actually gets to decide which bills get brought to the floor. Gets to negotiate with the president. Gets to divvy out committee appointments and campaign cash. Gets to shape what his party stands for, and what it won't abide.

Then again, look at our Kevin. The grinning hostage. Who would want to be speaker, in *this* political economy?

"I mean, I don't know why anybody would do it," said Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) on Wednesday afternoon. "There's no platform for being able to control the chamber with any one member holding that over your head."

Tillis, a former speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, had a piece of advice for applicants: "Don't take the job unless you get rid of the motion to vacate." (Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell had the same advice, saying the procedural move makes the job "impossible.")

A couple of Republicans have already submitted their cover letters: Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), who had been McCarthy's second-in-command as majority leader, declared his intention to run with "a strong sense of responsibility and purpose." Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), the chair of the House Judiciary Committee, asked his colleagues to back his bid "at a critical crossroad in our nation's history."

The morning after McCarthy's ouster had similar vibes to a school on a professional development day. The House was in recess; most lawmakers had left after Tuesday's vote. The few who remained — McCarthy loyalists, pretenders to the gavel — hung around, some in jeans and chinos, trekking between cable news hits in Statuary Hall and meetings in the speaker's ceremonial office.

Acting speaker Patrick T. McHenry (R-N.C.), recently seen smashing his new gavel with alarming force at the conclusion of Tuesday's proceeding, had sequestered himself there for much of the day, emerging only periodically with his phalanx of security, a bow tie and tuft of white hair barely visible through the mass. (Being acting speaker, it appears, requires little speaking to the press.) Tourists on their way to the Rotunda paused to take a photo of the sign hanging above the speaker's office which, for who knows how much longer, reads "SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE KEVIN McCARTHY."

The chamber's three legislative office buildings are named for legendary House speakers. The hallway leading up to the House floor is flanked by marble busts commemorating the achievements of others. The tenures of the speakers honored here are immortalized in gold leaf with their likenesses. Most served through several sessions of Congress — years, in other words, not months. McCarthy held the gavel for 269 days.

Nobody knows how long the next speaker might serve, or how that person will be remembered. They just know that *somebody* has to do it.

"We just need to get a speaker selected and get our job done," said Rep. Chip Roy (R-Tex.), who hasn't yet said whether he'll seek the post. "I mean, it is what it is. It's an honor to serve as speaker. So we've just gotta organize ourselves."

It is what it is.

And, to some degree, it is what it has been for a while. "Part of being speaker is just you are the whipping boy of the party," said Matt Green, a politics professor at Catholic University who literally wrote a paper called "The Worst Job In Washington: Kevin McCarthy and the Challenge of the Speakership." In the paper, Green traces the increasing difficulty of the job to "three major changes in the political environment: (1) highly competitive congressional elections, which disincentivized the minority party to help the majority govern; (2) small House majorities, which reduced the number of same-party lawmakers available to support the speaker; and (3) the election of new members of Congress who viewed norms of party loyalty with skepticism."

In other words: Honor or not, being speaker sorta sucks now.

"Your job as speaker is to take the slings and arrows, as it were," Green said in an interview. "And not take it personally. That makes it an unpleasant job. It also means you usually aren't very popular. So that's no fun, being unpopular."

"I don't like it," said Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) of how the current unpopularity contest has unfolded in the lower chamber. Sullen-faced, he walked down a staircase with his hands in his pockets. "I don't like chaos or disorder," Rubio lamented. "It makes the country look bad — but it is what it is."

More and more, this may be what it is. McCarthy's plight is a variation on a theme that's haunted through recent Republican speakerships, according to Gingrich. "That same spirit destroyed Boehner, the same spirit drove Ryan out the House, and that same spirit has now broken Kevin McCarthy," Gingrich said. (John Boehner and Paul Ryan, former Republican speakers, declined interview requests for this story.)

Those who clicked "Apply Now!" on the Daybook listing were redirected to a subscription page for the job-search service, an apparent self-advertising ploy. The actual process to fill the vacancy is expected to unfold over the next week, possibly longer, as Republicans decide what qualities they're looking for in a speaker (or a whipping boy, depending).

Congressman Roy, what qualities do you think the next speaker should embody?

"Leadership," he said, a bit tautologically. "It's something you exhibit, it's something that you observe."

It is what it is. Best of luck to all the applicants.

Behind the scenes of a UFO whistleblower's peculiar visit to Capitol Hill

GRUSCH FROM **C1**

ern-day UAP discourse, which has grown louder and more mainstream in recent years as the U.S. government has acknowledged that sometimes the phenomena defy explanation.

The documentary's subtitle is "7 Days With The Man Claiming Aliens Exist (under oath in congress)," although Grusch's purported knowledge is secondhand and he has offered no hard evidence in public. To Kandil, this is sort of beside the point.

"Our audience responds the most to moments of humanity," said Kandil, in an interview Saturday with The Washington Post, the day before the documentary was uploaded into the feeds of Yes Theory's 8.5 million subscribers, who responded with comments including "The Truth Will Set You Free" and "feeling uplifted for the compassion expressed for all of humanity."

There is something bigger here than bewildering aviation technology or clandestine government programs, Kandil thought. Something less alien. Something, ironically, more human.

The documentary came together just a week before Grusch's testimony. Michels, who met Grusch two years ago through a mutual friend in the Air Force, set up an introductory phone call with Kandil. Grusch liked the uplifting, adventurous vibe of Yes Theory's videos, which include Will Smith bungee-jumping out of a helicopter, two men illegally hiding out in Singapore's airport for four days, and a prank involving a Justin Bieber look-alike who ate a burrito from its middle instead of from one of its ends. Yes Theory's platform was a way to tell a story outside the bounds of traditional media or congressional oversight.

"I thought it would make sense to go through you guys," Grusch tells Yes Theory on camera.

Cut to: the exterior of the Rayburn House Office Building on July 26. Grusch, Kandil and Michels made small talk about the summer humidity. The influencers asked how the whistleblower was feeling, and he said he had been "restless" the night before.

Inside the committee room for oversight and government reform, Rep. Tim Burchett (R-Tenn.) asked Grusch: "Do you have any personal knowledge of people who have been harmed or injured in efforts to cover up or conceal these extraterrestrial technology?"

"Yes," Grusch replied.

Later in the hearing Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) asked whether the government had retrieved bodies from crashed UAP.

"Biologics came with some of these recoveries, yeah," Grusch said.

Mace asked: Were they human or nonhuman?

"Nonhuman," Grusch said. "And that was the assessment of people with direct knowledge on the program I talked to."

Kandil was transfixed by Grusch's testimony, but he didn't see fellow content creators lighting up at the committee's dry, repetitive focus on the national-security interests of the United States. He thinks the key for this kind of news to reach an untapped, younger audience is hardly rocket science.

"The packaging needs to feel like it's YouTube-native," Kandil said in an interview. In the modern streaming era, this means emphasizing a character's relatability as much as the person's credentials or claims.

As Kandil explains, "stepping outside your comfort zone" — as Grusch did over the summer in Washington — resonates with young people raised in a "hyper, instant culture" that is "constantly telling you to take the easier route."

It hasn't been easy for Grusch. Since July, he has been portrayed as a kook, a conspiracy theorist, a peddler of scuttlebutt. Last month, NASA administrator Bill Nelson — while unveiling a report on UAP that found no evidence of extraterrestrials — said there was "a lot more to learn" on the subject, but when asked about Grusch's testimony, he belittled it as the equivalent of saying "a friend" has "a UFO locked up in a warehouse."

"The deeper you get into covering UFOs, the more almost all of this feels like an intergalactic game of telephone," author and UFO researcher Garrett M. Graff told Vanity Fair, after Grusch's claims were first reported by the Debrief.

In August, the Intercept dug up a 2018 incident in which Grusch was "committed to a mental health facility," suggesting that the Afghanistan veteran's post-combat demons might cloud his judgment.

"David Grusch has this intensity, and we know the type," said retired Navy pilot Ward Carroll on his YouTube show in August, referring to the military's administrative ranks, adding: "Sometimes they're a little eccentric."

Grusch, who declined to be formally interviewed for this story, is portrayed in the documentary as a man on a diligent mission — or a "journey," as he puts it at one point. He speaks of his trauma from combat, of his Roman Catholic upbringing, of his neurodivergence.

"Hopefully I can make a difference," Grusch said on the ride from the airport to Washington, and be "the guy that will inspire more people to go public."

After the congressional hearing, Kandil posted a cryptic message on his personal Instagram account: "Hey, I'm doing a meet up tomorrow around UFOs. If you had one question to ask at the hearing, what would it have been?"

The next day, July 27, Kandil hosted a Q&A with Grusch and 30 fans of Yes Theory at a hotel less than a mile from the Capitol. "The true public hearing," Kandil called it, with "skeptics" and "believers" alike. Fans drove overnight from outside the D.C. area to be there.

Grusch, who a day earlier was grilled under penalty of perjury, found himself in the middle of a YouTube fan meetup with far lower stakes — although the documentary's pulsing musical score suggests that great revelations were at hand.

"Are we safe as, like, a human species?" asked one attendee. "Because, I mean, I might have watched too many movies."

"The universe certainly has a yin and a yang, so there's certainly dark with light," Grusch said. "So I think it's a mixed bag."

Grusch then recounted one story about "a very senior Navy individual" who told him about an incident where a "a 300-foot triangular craft" hovered above his car. "He couldn't even process what he was seeing," Grusch told the meetup. "But then he took pictures of his car after the incident," he said, and the "upper-facing decks of his car were all hit with ionizing radiation, ultraviolet, because the paint became milky."

Did Grusch see the photos? Would it matter if he did? If his tale proves anything at all, it's Grusch's sincere desire to connect with — and believe — his fellow humans. He told the meetup about his Catholic upbringing, and the "woo-woo" nature of faith in any transcendent mystery — how he drifted from it, and how, in a way, he has returned.

"Oddly enough," Grusch told the meetup, "I've kind of come full circle."

The UAP discourse has rounded a bend, too. The documentary arrives at a moment when the conversation has intensified in politics, popular culture and the Pentagon.

In 2017, the New York Times revealed a secret U.S. government program devoted to investigating reports of UAP. In August, the Defense Department's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office launched a digital hub for all things anomalous, including a map of reported "hot spots" and records of typical UAP characteristics ("round" and "white"). Last month, NASA appointed its first director of research on UAP.

A bipartisan amendment to the annual defense authorization bill would declassify government documents related to UAP.

"The American public has a right to learn about technologies of unknown origins, nonhuman intelligence, and unexplainable phenomena," Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in July.

One of the 10 most-watched TV shows on Netflix is the Spielberg-produced "Encounters," a four-part docuseries revisiting unexplained sightings through a humanistic lens. Aaron Rodgers, the New York Jets quarterback, barely raised an eyebrow when he recently disclosed a UAP run-in on HBO's "Hard Knocks." Ditto for Olivia Rodrigo, one of the biggest names in pop music, who told Rolling Stone that in lieu of "Twitter conspiracies" about a rumored feud with Taylor Swift, she prefers to "only look at alien conspiracy theories."

Although UAP discourse has trended toward the mainstream, it still can feel like a fringe topic. Congress and NASA make it seem too technical and bureaucratic. Paranoid stories of close encounters, sprinkled across Reddit, are too odd and tinfoil-hat.

Kandil thinks his documentary — which had accumulated over 750,000 views by Thursday morning — can move the conversation forward, to new demographics and new platforms, through modern ways of storytelling suited for TikTok tastes. Grusch thinks his "journey" can inspire people with firsthand knowledge to come forward.

But real answers to the UAP question are not to be found in behind-the-scenes journeys, in the enthusiasm of subscribers or in the promise of evidence. They are to be found in measurable, tangible facts.

"So, this David Grusch guy is basing his entire claim on conversations that he had," not "actual evidence," said Avi Loeb, a theoretical astrophysicist at Harvard University, in a phone interview. Loeb says he watched half the documentary; he saw a narrative, not any actual disclosure.

"We need to look through telescopes and be collecting data through instruments, not through people talking about it on social media," said Loeb, who heads the Galileo Project, which searches for science-based evidence of extraterrestrial technological artifacts. "Somebody interviewing another guy who tells the story — who cares?"

Fans of Yes Theory might care. People who want to believe might care, as would people who just like a good, relatable story. But people like Avi Loeb?

"I just want to see the data," Loeb said. "And Grusch is just another story."

LUKE GAIE

David Grusch, left, with Jesse Michels and Ammar Kandil of Yes Theory, a "digital-storytelling" collective, who followed Grusch around when he was in Washington to testify before Congress.

On the final day of Paris Fashion Week, a refreshing salvo of girl power

FASHION FROM **C1**

sophisticated, and while some old-school fashion fans find her work underwhelming, suggesting her mishmash styling can sometimes be harsh on the eye, she nails the way young women, experimenting with their style and self-conception, fling things together and stride out into the world with that mix of confidence and naiveté. Flip-flops and geeky glasses with mommy's long tweed coat? Ha! Matching striped skirts and tops? Even her little tweed suits look like tasty pastries for an influencer in the making.

Though Viard herself seems subdued and chic in the classic Parisian sense, she shines when she goes Valley Girl and a bit tacky. There's so much fatigue around logos these days — they seem so obvious! — yet those double C's feel somehow unimpeachable, even to the coolest and most understated women. (Not for nothing: The house increased the prices of its handbags by 16 percent in March, and they continue to fly off the shelves.)

More earthbound was the Spring collection by the Fannings, the Australian twins behind womenswear at the cult menswear label Kiko Kostadinov. (Kostadinov is Laura's fiancé.)

The pieces were like feminist Dr. Seuss: delicately swaggy tops and dresses whose tucks bopped around to flatter the body in different ways on tops and dresses; funky stripes layered in pretty patches; a bomber jacket that zipped in a zillion unexpected places; and demurely weird sweaters that seemed turned upside down and backward to make garments that looked like Sargent's Madame X by way of teen-apocalypse filmmaker Gregg Araki. Every piece bore the mark of play, experimentation and creativity — the delights of two women talking, thinking and dreaming together. Just a few seasons ago, their clothes could feel overworked, but now they seem confident, cheerful and exciting — the perfect pieces for someone who really geeks out about interesting clothes, whose mind is equal parts vintage Martin Margiela and the "Spice World" soundtrack.

Really, this day was rich and thick with the spirit of frivolity, intimacy and invention.

The master of this attitude is Miuccia Prada's Miu Miu, where two years ago the designer introduced a hacked-off miniskirt that set off a still-barrelling trend cycle. (Her partnership with stylist Lotta Volkova, who helped Demna reinvent Balenciaga, is a big help.)

The clothes progressed from the most mundane version of the school uniform — perhaps the first thing forced upon a young woman that her intuition tells her to push quietly against, subtly asserting her individuality with little tweaks. You make the skirt a bit too short, or layer shirts together, or wear glasses for fun, or make your hair kind of messy — anything to make this conscripted role feel a bit more personal. As the show went on, the clothes became more and more complicated, maybe more adult — little suits, sequin bomber jackets, boxy cocktail dresses and opera coats — with models carrying overstuffed handbags with junk and even an errant shoe hanging out.

Mrs. Prada knows how to tell the most relatable story about the daily chaos and mischief of being a woman, puckered with feminine pleasures — rhinestones, miniskirts, pockets, a glam coat. She makes the flirtatious and silly look somehow genius, honoring that time in your life when you're making a lot of mistakes, when you think you know way more than you do and can look fantastic wearing whatever you want on the worst hair day you've had in months.

What an intelligent and delightful way to use a fashion runway in 2023. And a reminder to the guys (and women) holding the purse strings that women vote with their dollars: Miu Miu's revenue already jumped 50 percent in the first half of this year.

VICTOR BOYKO/GETTY IMAGES FOR MIU MIU

Music duo Amiaya attend the Miu Miu show at Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday, which saw a trio of key events from female designers.

Works of Nobel-winning Norwegian Jon Fosse 'give voice to the unsayable'

BY JILL PELLETTIERI

The Norwegian novelist and playwright Jon Fosse has won the Nobel Prize for literature, the Swedish Academy announced on Thursday, for works that "give voice to the unsayable."

Fosse was born in 1959 on the Norwegian west coast, and his large body of work spans genres, ranging from plays, novels and poetry collections, to essays, translations and children's books. "Fosse's magnum opus is his 'Septology' in three books," a representative of the Academy said during the announcement ceremony, "completed in 2021, in which an elderly artist speaks to himself as another person" over the course of seven days.

"Septology," translated by Damion Searls, was brought to the United States by the California-based nonprofit publisher Transit Books, which is run by the husband-and-wife team of Adam Z. Levy and Ashley Nelson Levy.

Speaking from his home in the East Bay, Adam Levy said he and his wife "did something really reckless": They signed on to publish the entire multivolume work of "Septology" on the basis of a 30-page sample that was sent to them by Fosse's British publisher, Fitzcarraldo Editions. At the time, the second and third volumes had not been written yet. Transit published "Septology" in one volume in 2022 and previously had published it as three separate volumes titled "The Other Name," "I Is Another" and "A New Name." "A New Name" was a finalist last year for the National Book Award for translated literature and the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction.

Adam Levy said that when he and Ashley Levy read the opening sequence of "Septology," they were immediately drawn in: "It's about two doppelgängers on the western coast of Norway. They're both painters, and they're reflecting on life and death and art and Catholicism and alcoholism," Adam Levy said, with passion in his voice about what he called the "truly hypnotic" quality of Fosse's prose. He noted that Fosse has been published his whole career by small presses, which really understand the author's "transfixing style," Levy said. "You kind of get into that current in his work, and then you're off. You're taken away with it."

Fosse's work has been translated into more than 40 languages, and his plays, which include "Someone Is Going to Come," "Dream of Autumn" and "I Am the Wind," are some of the most widely performed in the world. His dramatic work often draws comparisons to Samuel Beckett and Henrik Ibsen. In an interview last year, after "A New Name" was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, Fosse cited Norwegian writer Tarjei Vesaas, Austrian poet Georg Trakl, and Beckett as his influences, adding: "I think the writers I admire the most are Franz Kafka and Knut Hamsun."

The critic Merve Emre, writing in a profile of Fosse for the New Yorker in 2022, said: "To read Fosse's plays and novels is to enter into communion with a writer whose presence one feels all the more intensely owing to his air of reserve, his withdrawal." And: "'Septology' is the only novel I have read that has made me believe in the reality of the divine."

Readers looking for a gateway into Fosse's work might try his new work, "A Shining," also translated by Searls, which Transit will release at the end of this month. It is slim at a mere 44 pages, "but it contains a lot of the stylistic and sensibility of his larger work," Levy said. "It's about a man who kind of stops his car at the edge of a forest, and then he wanders into the forest in the dark and is confronted by a glowing presence. And in that presence, [he is able to] meditate more broadly on things like religion, art and life."

The Nobel in literature is bestowed by 18 judges who make up the Swedish Academy, and it honors a writer's entire body of work, not a single work. As Alfred Nobel, for whom the prizes are named, specified in his will, the prize should go "to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction." The winner receives 11 million Swedish kronor — close to $1 million.

French writer Annie Ernaux won the prize last year, receiving the Nobel "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory." As Meghan O'Rourke wrote in The Washington Post, Ernaux "has produced a succession of slender, scorching and closely observed books about experiences that usually go unrecorded or unexamined." Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah won the Nobel in literature in 2021, and American poet Louise Glück won in 2020.

Nobel winners in physics, medicine and chemistry were announced earlier this week. Two scientists, Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman, received the Nobel in medicine for their groundbreaking research on messenger RNA, which was critical to the development of coronavirus vaccines. The Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded on Friday, and the Nobel Prize for economics will be awarded on Monday. All 2023 winners are invited to an awards ceremony to be held on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

Suspicious friend wonders how financial-planner pal is funding all of her trips

Carolyn Hax

Dear Carolyn: My friend of almost 40 years is also my financial planner. Recently, I've discovered she has made some questionable moves with my life savings. Although we live thousands of miles apart, we speak frequently on the phone. When she comes to town, we always visit each other. However, I have yet to be invited to her place out West.

Lately, she and her partner have gone on many trips, and I wonder if I have been funding them? She has left several messages and is anxious to speak to me. Not sure how to broach the subject. Is she really a friend? Can this friendship be repaired? Is it time that I find a new financial planner?

— Anonymous

Anonymous: Well, yes to the last one — but the time to find a new financial planner hit peak urgency the moment before you agreed to a business arrangement with a friend. It's just not a good idea to commingle friendship with financial management, for every reason your letter encompasses.

It's also time to start taking her calls again. You're jumping to unsupported conclusions and thinking the absolute worst of a 40-year friend without giving her even a chance to explain her work.

But I'm getting ahead of myself: You do not want to pick up the phone only to demand explanations for all your worst suppositions. Merely accusing her of hiding her lifestyle from you and vacationing on your money is a friendship ender unto itself, so you don't want to do that unless you're beyond reasonable doubt and have all the smoking account statements in hand.

Since your information at this point seems to fall well short of that standard of proof and include some panicked speculation, start by securing the expertise of a fiduciary financial adviser. Investigate what your adviser-friend did and why, and, if necessary, what remedies you have available to you. Then make your next decisions based on what you learn — hard facts only. Then you talk business with your friend.

Whatever your decisions turn out to be, please make sure what you do with your money is unaffected by friendship. Ideally, your friendship also will be unaffected by money, but, depending on what she did, it might be too late for that.

NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Carolyn: I'm new in the relationship thing, and I'm feeling like quitting already. My girl is free to say anything she wants but always corrects me in what I say, how I respond to people, whenever I say something. She does this to me anytime she feels like, and I don't know if it's okay.

— New

New: Definitely not okay, in a general and objective sense. Unequal treatment between supposed equals is a clear warning to get out of that arrangement, stat.

In a relationship sense, though, each of us decides for ourselves what is okay with us. If deep in your heart you do want to be corrected every time you speak for the rest of your life, then it wouldn't be my place to stop you.

Here's something that is okay in a general sense: It's okay to walk away from a relationship "just" because you're unhappy with it, even when it's the only one you've ever had, even when you still believe it's fixable. (I highly doubt this one is, for the record.) It's okay to see it as nothing more than a completed chapter in your education — the one where you learned that liking yourself matters more than your feelings for anyone else.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

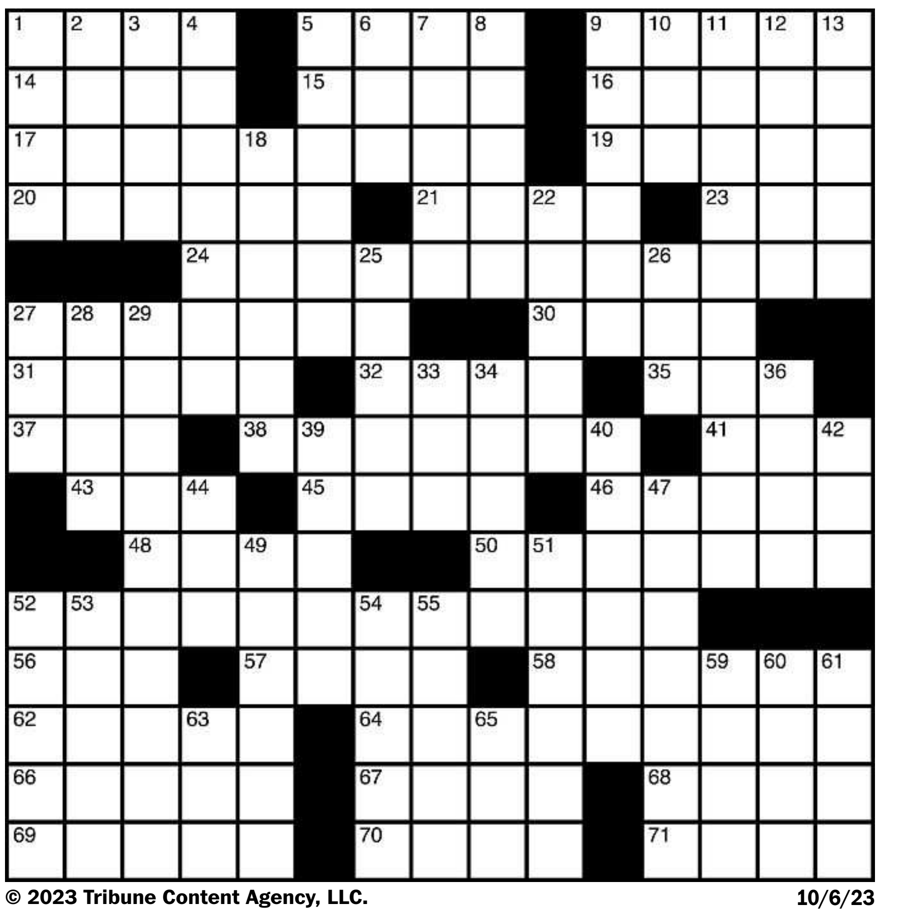
TELEVISION

10/6/23	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4.1 WRC (NBC)	♦ **NBCNe..**	♦ **Hollywo..**	♦ The Irrational		♦ **Dateline NBC**				♦ **News**
4.2 WRC (IND)	Bones		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Roseanne	Roseanne	Nanny
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	♦ **Fox 5**	♦ **TMZ**	♦ **WWE Friday Night SmackDown** (Live)				♦ **Fox 5 News at 10**		♦ **Fox 5 ..**
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	♦ **Wheel**	♦ **Jeopardy!**	♦ **Shark Tank**		♦ **20/20**				♦ **News**
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	♦ **InsideEd.**	♦ **ET**	♦ **NWSL Soccer** Washington Spirit at OL Reign (Live)					♦ Neighbor	♦ **9 News**
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	♦ Rosa		♦ **Eternamente**		♦ **Tierra de esperanza**		♦ **Minas de pasión**		♦ Noticias
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	♦ FamFeud	♦ FamFeud	♦ **Fox 5 News**		♦ FamFeud	♦ FamFeud	♦ FamFeud	♦ Puzzler	♦ Chicago
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	♦ State	♦ Artworks	♦ Midsom..	(:40) ♦ Midsomer		♦ **American Masters**			♦ **Week**
26.1 WETA (PBS)	♦ **PBS NewsHour**		♦ **Week**	♦ History	♦ **American Masters**			♦ Next	
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	♦ DW News	♦ School	♦ Finding Your Roots		♦ Movie: Mississippi Blues (1984)			♦ ReelSo..	♦ BBCNe..
50.1 WDCW (CW)	♦ Neighbor	♦ Neighbor	♦ Movie: Bring It On ★★ (2000)				♦ **DC News Now**		♦ Seinfeld
66.1 WPXW (ION)	♦ Hawaii Five-0		♦ Hawaii Five-0		♦ Hawaii Five-0		♦ Hawaii Five-0		♦ Hawaii
A&E	The First 48		**The First 48**		**Killer Cases**		**Murder in the 21st**		First48
AMC	(5:00) Movie: H...	Movie: Halloween II ★ (2009) Unstoppable Michael Myers continues his murderous rampage.					Movie: V/H/S/94 (2021) (P)		
Animal Planet	River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters		Monsters
BET	Payne	Payne	Movie: Harlem Nights ★★ (1989)						Ms. Pat
Bravo	Movie: Back to the Future Part III ★★★ (1990) Marty McFly visits the Old West to save the imperiled Doc.					Movie: Back to the Future ★★★ (1985)			
Cartoon Network	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	American
CNN	**E. B. OutFront** (Live)		**Cooper 360** (Live)		**The Source** (Live)		**CNN** (Live)		**CNN**
Comedy Central	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Office	Office	Office	Movie
Discovery	**Gold Rush**		**Gold Rush**		(:05) **Bering Sea Gold** (SP)				**GoldRush**
Disney	Big City	Toy Story	The Proud	Marvel's	Hamster &	Hamster &	Ladybug	Ladybug	Villains
E!	(6:00) Movie: Ocean's Eleven (2001)			Movie: Ocean's Twelve ★★★ (2004)					
ESPN	**Countd-own** (Live)	**College Football** Kansas State at Oklahoma State (Live)						**SportsCenter** (Live)	
ESPN2	NFL Live		ESPN Films				**Stanley Cup: Golden Knights** Part 1		**Knights** Part 2
Food Network	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	**Diners**	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	**Ingraham** (Live)		**Jesse Watters** (Live)		**Hannity** (Live)		**Gutfeld!**		**Fox News**
Freeform	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The 700 Club
FX	(5:00) Movie: K...	Movie: The A-Team ★★ (2010) Former Special Forces soldiers form a rogue unit.					Movie: The A-Team ★★ (2010)		
Hallmark	(6:00) Movie: Christmas Getaway (2017)		Movie: A Royal Queens Christmas (2021)				Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
Hallmark M&M	Hannah Swensen Mysteries				**Hannah Swensen Mysteries**				Movie: Mystery ...
HBO	(6:00) Movie: X...	(:45) Movie: X-Men: Days of Future Past ★★★ (2014) X-Men and their earlier selves must alter a pivotal event.					**Real Time With Bill Maher** (Live)		Real, Bill Maher
HGTV	**HGTV Urban**		DreamHo..	DreamHo..	**DreamHo..**	DreamH..	**House Hunters**		Hunters
History	The UnXplained		The UnXplained		**The UnXplained** (SP)		(:05) **Proof-There** (SP)		(:05) Proof
Lifetime	Castle		Movie: Amish Stud: The Eli Weaver Story (2023)				(:05) Movie: You Can't Take My Daughter (2020)		
MASN	**O's Xtra**		**Natitude: The**		Touchdown Baltimore		**4th and**	Pro Football Plus	
MSNBC	**The ReidOut** (Live)		**All In With** (Live)		**Wagner** (Live)		**Last Word** (Live)		**11th Hour**
MTV	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	**Ridiculous**	**Ridiculous**	**Ridiculous**	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
Nat'l Geographic	To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		ASmuggler
NBC SportsNet	Hometow..	Caps Line	Caps Line	Beyond the	Beyond the	Hershey Bears:		Washingt..	Washingt..
Nickelodeon	Movie: Monster High 2 (2023)				Movie: Bee Movie ★★ (2007)				Friends
NWSN	**On Balance**		**Cuomo**		**Dan Abrams** (Live)		**Banfield**		Cuomo
Paramount	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Movie: My Cousin Vinny ★★★ (1992) An inept lawyer tries to free his cousin from a Dixie jail.						Movie: My Cousin ...
Showtime	(6:15) Movie: The Queen ★★★ (2006)		**Deadlocked**		Movie: Heist 88 (2023)			Movie: Bandit (2022)	
Syfy	(5:15) Movie: S...	Movie: Saw II ★★ (2005)				Movie: Saw III ★★ (2006) A doctor becomes a pawn in Jigsaw's latest game.			
TBS	(6:30) Movie: Tyler Per...		Movie: Why Did I Get Married? ★★ (2007)					Movie: Tyler Perry's ...	
TCM	(6:00) Movie: Show Boat ★★★ (1951)		Movie: Wuthering Heights ★★★ (1939)				Movie: Jane Eyre ★★★ (1944)		
TLC	90 Day Fiancé		**90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days**				**90 Day**	Last Resort	
TNT	Movie: 2012 ★★ (2009) A global cataclysm nearly wipes out humanity.						(:15) Movie: Oz the Great and Powerful ★★ (2013)		
Travel	Osbournes- Bel.		Osbournes- Bel.		Osbournes- Bel.		Osbournes- Bel.		Osbournes
TruTV	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers
TV Land	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King
TV One	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford
USA Network	(6:00) Movie: The Blind Side ★★★ (2009)				Movie: The Blind Side ★★★ (2009)				
VH1	(6:30) Movie: Vampire in Brooklyn (1995) (P)				Movie: Blue Streak ★ (1999)				Movie
WNC8	Smile	Paid Prog.	7News at..	Paid Prog.	**SportsTalk**	**WorldNe..**	**WJLANe..**	Emeril	**National**

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ♦ High Definition
Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Ruth Bloomfield Margolin



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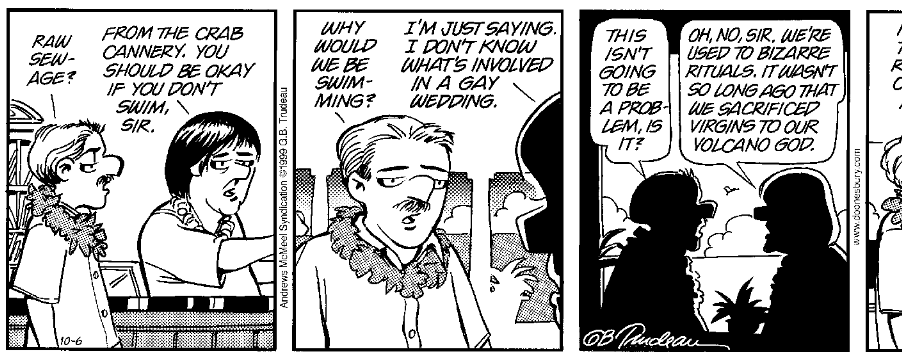
ACROSS
1 Rum mixer
5 Tarot suit
9 Destructive bug
14 Receptive
15 Draft choice
16 New car option
17 *Litter collection vehicles?
19 Laudatory poet
20 First baseball team to play in a dome
21 "Birthplace of Aviation"
23 __ salt
24 *Malcolm's status at the end of "Macbeth"?
27 Writer who populated the Hundred Acre Wood
30 Shade in four-color printing
31 Actor Reeves
32 Mission control org.
35 Scale abbr.
37 Fish sticks fish
38 *"Arf" or "meow"?
41 "Tubular!"
43 Trawling need
45 Future atty.'s exam
46 Quick-as-lightning Bolt
48 City near the heel of Italy's boot
50 Supplementary items
52 *Source of friction when a messy person lives with a neatnik?
56 __-di-dah
57 See 26-Down
58 Regret not wearing a coat, say
62 Degrade
64 Measure of grossness avoided in the answers to the starred clues?
66 Forbidden things
67 "America the Beautiful" pronoun
68 "Frozen" princess
69 Beckett title character who is not in the cast
70 Rise sky-high
71 Fifth Avenue retailer

DOWN
1 __ Mundial de Fútbol
2 Major work
3 Maintained
4 Board, in a way
5 Reunion attendee
6 5-Down's dad, for short
7 Tea type
8 Obama daughter
9 __ Mary
10 Wordsmith's ref.
11 Post production?
12 Steel city north of Cologne
13 Put on sale, say
18 Arrive, as in a limo
22 Like some ancient Peruvian pottery
25 Air ducts
26 With 57-Across, co-star in the "Harold & Kumar" film series
27 Pedigree registry since 1884: Abbr.
28 Long, long time
29 Like all ancient Peruvian pottery
33 In the style of
34 Occupy, as a desk
36 "__ no one ever"
39 Top-tier
40 Author Welty
42 Crime lab material
44 Some Ph.D. students
47 Native New Yorkers
49 Best for picking
51 "I beg to __"
52 Word on the street?
53 Like 66-Across
54 Liters and meters
55 Dried Mexican chile
59 Sicilian mount
60 Fall fast asleep, with "out"
61 Eventful times
63 Phillipa of "Hamilton"
65 Hawaii's Mauna __

THURSDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

G	I	R	L		R	A	I	L		G	R	U	B	S
I	D	E	A		O	R	C	A		R	E	M	I	T
F	I	R	B	A	B	I	E	S		E	M	P	T	Y
S	N	A	R	L	E	D		E	K	E		T	E	X
	G	N	A	T			B	R	O	N	Z	E		
			T	O	P	L	E	S	S	B	E	E	C	H
C	A	R	S		S	E	A			A	N	N	I	E
A	L	A		S	T	I	R	F	R	Y		T	A	D
M	O	D	E	M			H	E	Y		A	H	O	Y
P	E	A	R	O	F	Q	U	E	E	N	S			
		R	A	G	R	U	G			O	K	R	A	
A	L	T		T	O	O		R	I	T	A	O	R	A
P	U	R	G	E		T	H	E	N	E	W	Y	E	W
E	X	A	M	S		A	B	E	T		A	C	N	E
D	E	P	O	T		S	O	L	O		Y	E	A	S

CLASSIC DOONESBURY
GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES
BRIAN CRANE

BRIDGE

BOTH SIDES VULNERABLE

NORTH (D)
♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ A K 6
♦ Q 2
♣ A 10 8 7

WEST
♠ Q J 9
♥ J 10 5
♦ K 10 9 4 3
♣ 5 4

EAST
♠ 10
♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ J 8 7
♣ K Q J 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 4 2
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A 6 5
♣ 9 3

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♥ J

Cy the Cynic is a devout procrastinator. He says work is a noble endeavor, and some should always be saved for tomorrow. Cy's tendency often helps him as declarer, when he waits to draw trumps.

At four spades, Cy saw a possible loser in each suit, but he could hope to discard a heart from dummy on a second diamond winner. He took the ace of hearts, led a trump to his ace and returned a diamond. West won and led the queen of trumps.

If Cy wins and goes to the queen of diamonds, he has no quick reentry to his hand. If he leads the ace and a second club, East wins and leads a heart to dummy. Then if Cy tries to return to his hand with a club ruff, West overruffs and cashes a heart for down one.

Cy saw the problem: He procrastinated by letting West's queen of trumps win. When West next led a second heart, the Cynic won, took the queen of diamonds, led a trump to his hand, threw dummy's last heart on the ace of diamonds and ruffed his last heart in dummy. Making four.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold:
♠ 8 7 5 3 ♥ A K 6
♦ Q 2 ♣ A 10 8 7

The dealer, at your right, opens one heart. You double, and your partner bids ("advances") two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Many players would have doubled, risking an unwelcome response in diamonds; a few players would have passed. Now that partner has bid diamonds, you must pass, table dummy and apologize for the inadequate support. A further bid would suggest a much stronger hand.

— Frank Stewart

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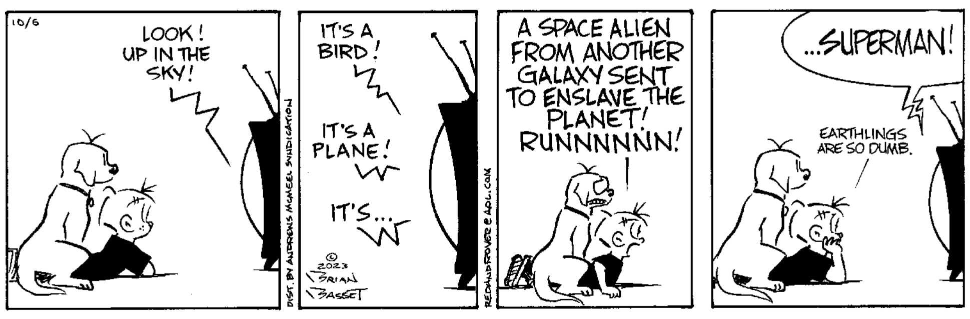
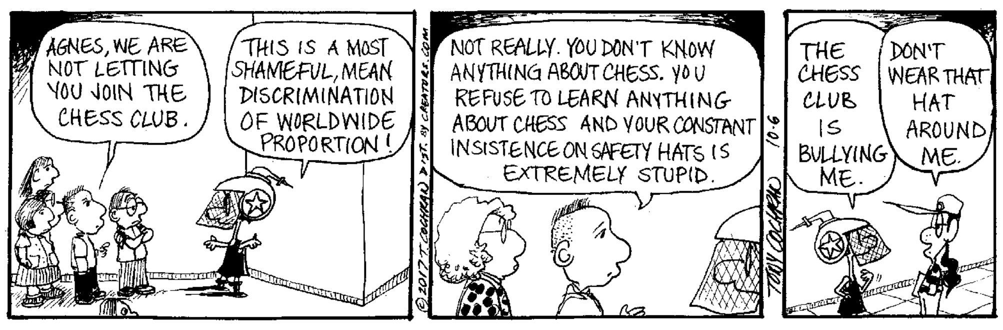
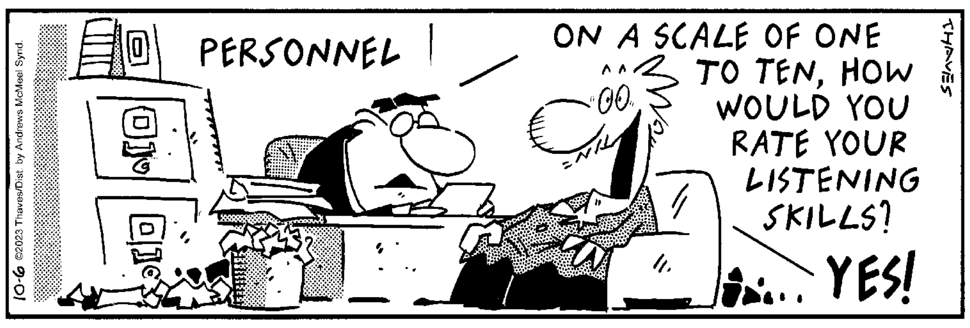
RED AND ROVER
BRIAN BASSET



AGNES
TONY COCHRAN

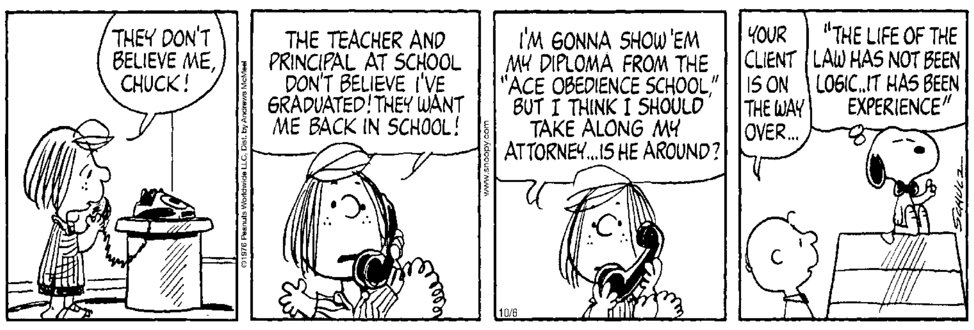


FRANK AND ERNEST
TOM THAVES

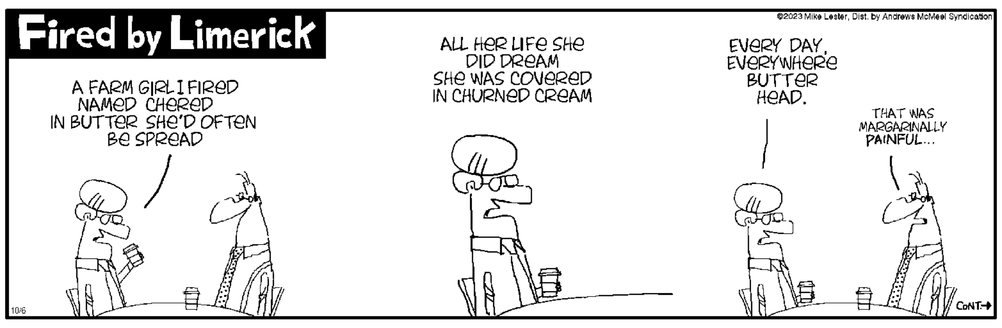


WUMO
MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER

CLASSIC PEANUTS
CHARLES SCHULZ

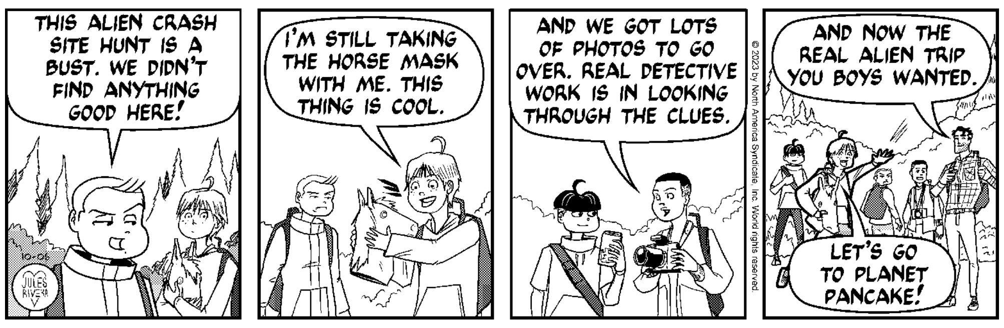


MIKE DU JOUR
MIKE LESTER

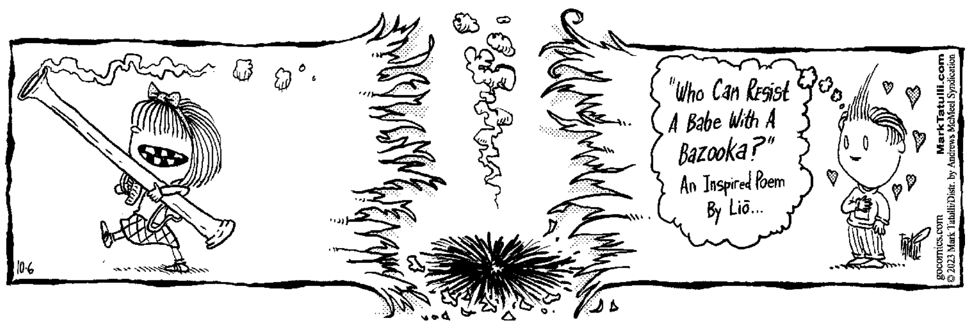


RHYMES WITH ORANGE
HILARY PRICE

MARK TRAIL
JULES RIVERA



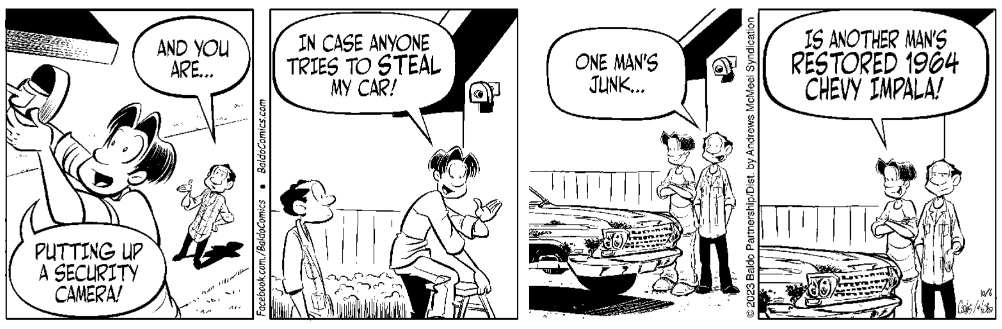
LIO
MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
MIKE PETERS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE
CHRIS BROWNE

BALDO
HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE
DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

SALLY FORTH
FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		9	7		2			
					6	8		
	7			9			3	2
					8	5		3
1				5				6
2		7	1					
7	9			1			2	
		4	6					
			4		7	3		

10/6

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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RACK 1: U1 Y4 T1 N1 R1 S1 L1

RACK 2: A1 E1 E1 R1 H4 T1 B3

RACK 3: A1 A1 Y4 L1 S1 M3 B3 — 3rd Letter Double

RACK 4: A1 E1 O1 M3 R1 R1 W4 — Triple Word Score

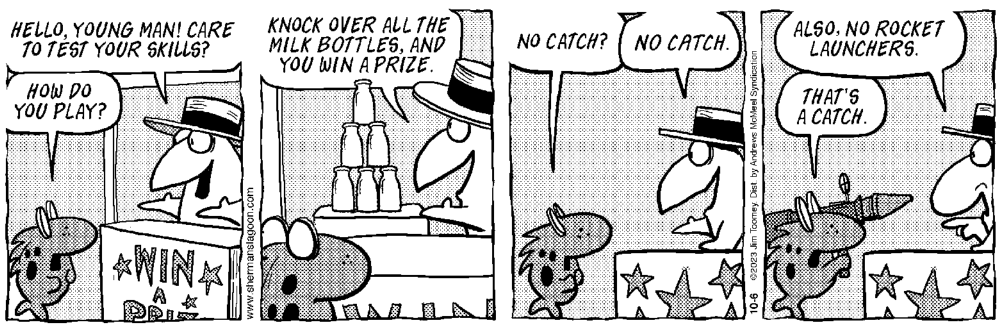
PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 225
FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

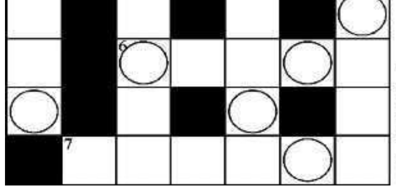
10-06

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
JIM TOOMEY



CURTIS
RAY BILLINGSLEY

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS
by David L. Hoyt



10-6-23

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Disappear	HINVAS
5. South ____	ROAKE
6. ____ rings	NOINO
7. Long ____	SDANIL

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Leif Erikson, for one	KVIGNI
2. Jumpy	EUSRONV
3. Strength, vigor	SNAAITM
4. Autographed	SDNEGI

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: Its name was derived from the Cantonese term meaning "fragrant harbor."

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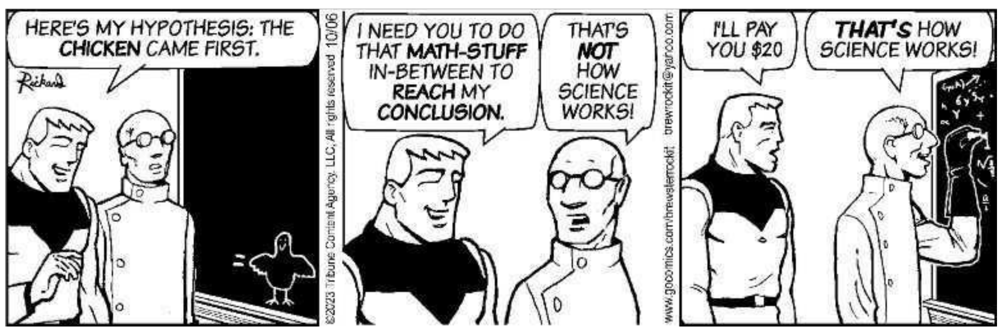
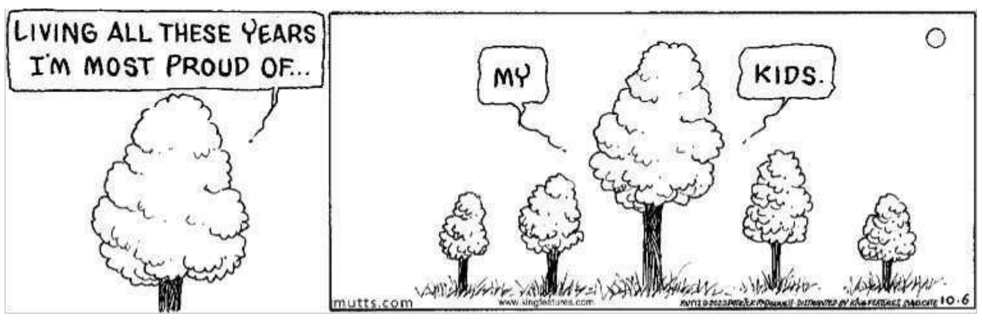
Send comments to TCA - 560 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60654 or DLHoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

ANSWERS: 1A-Vanish 5A-Korea 6A-Onion 7A-Island 1D-Viking 2D-Nervous 3D-Stamina 4D-Signed B-Hong Kong

BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!
TIM RICKARD



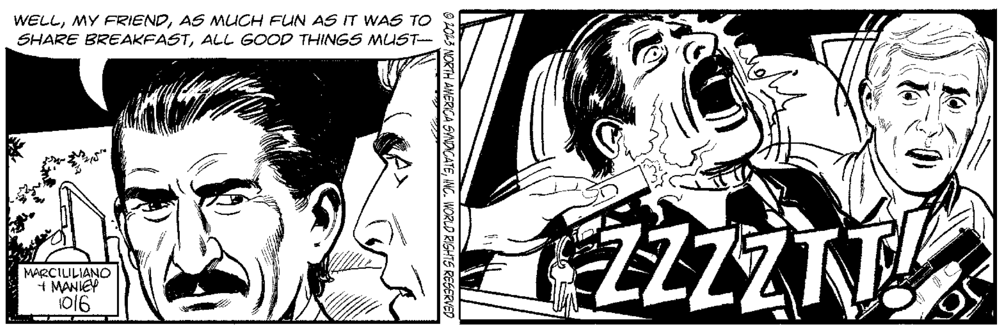
MUTTS
PATRICK McDONNELL



ZITS
JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

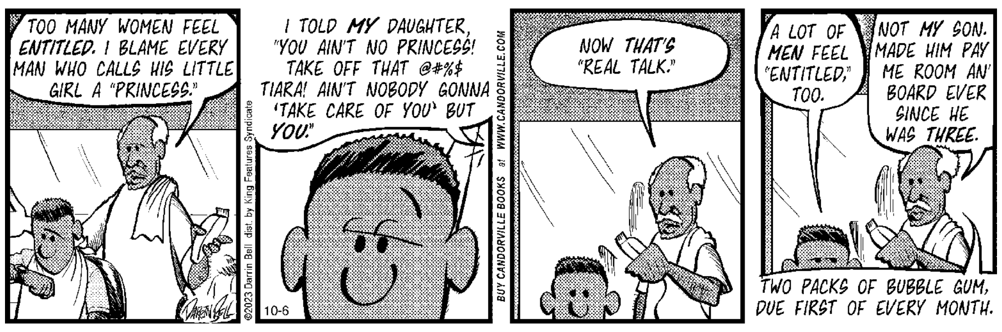
HEART OF THE CITY
STEENZ

JUDGE PARKER
FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY



FRAZZ
JEF MALLETT

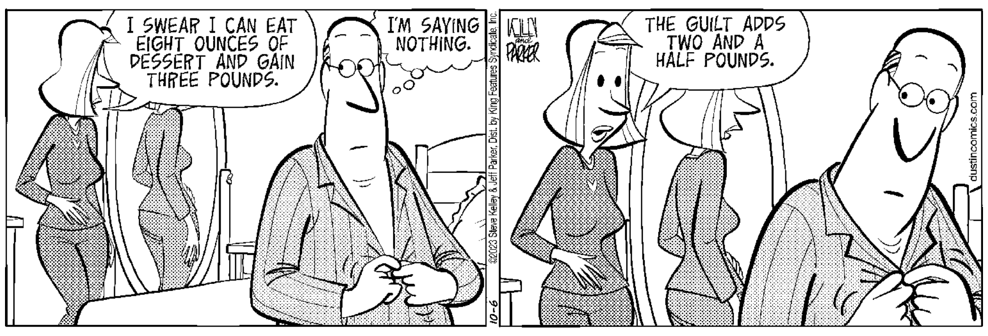
CANDORVILLE
DARRIN BELL



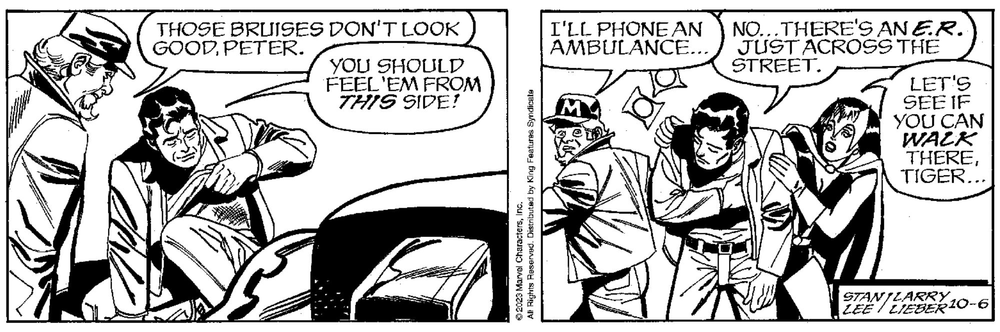
GARFIELD
JIM DAVIS

BARNEY AND CLYDE
WEINGARTENS & CLARK

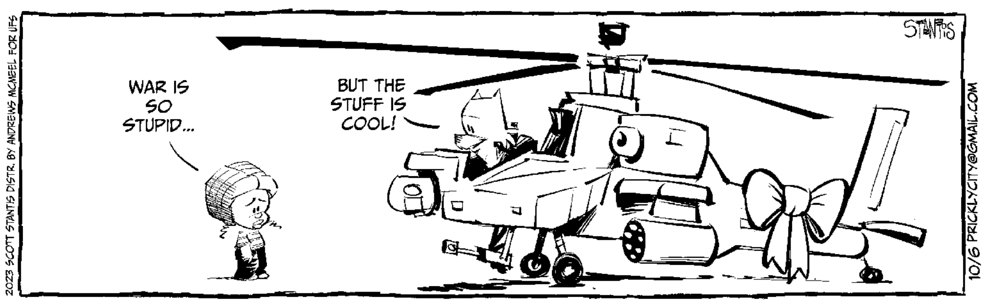
DUSTIN
STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE & ALEX SAVIUK



PRICKLY CITY
SCOTT STANTIS

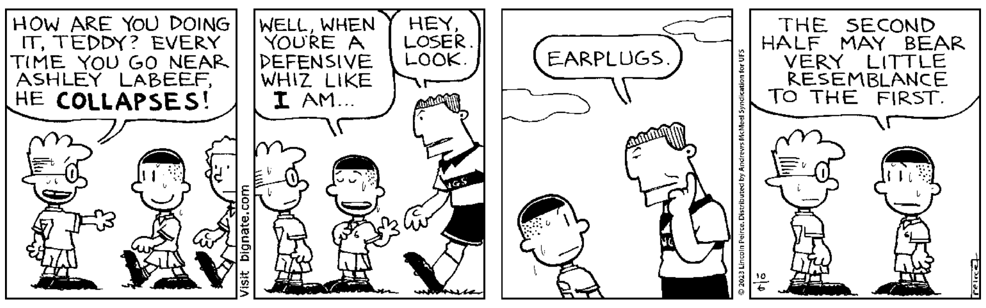


LOOSE PARTS
DAVE BLAZEK

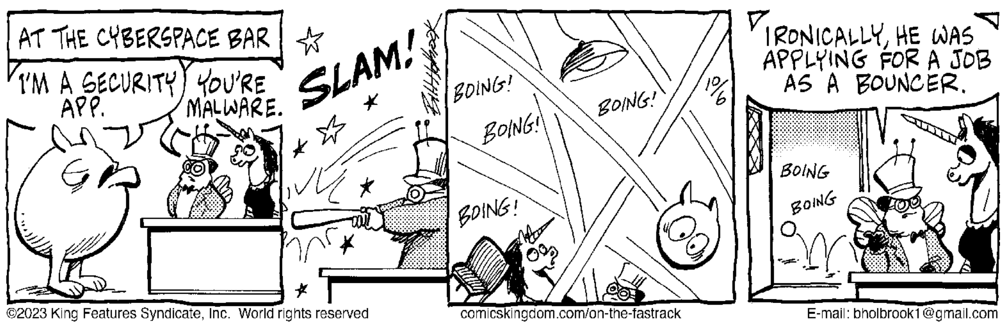
NON SEQUITUR
WILEY

BABY BLUES
RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

BIG NATE
LINCOLN PEIRCE



ON THE FASTRACK
BILL HOLBROOK



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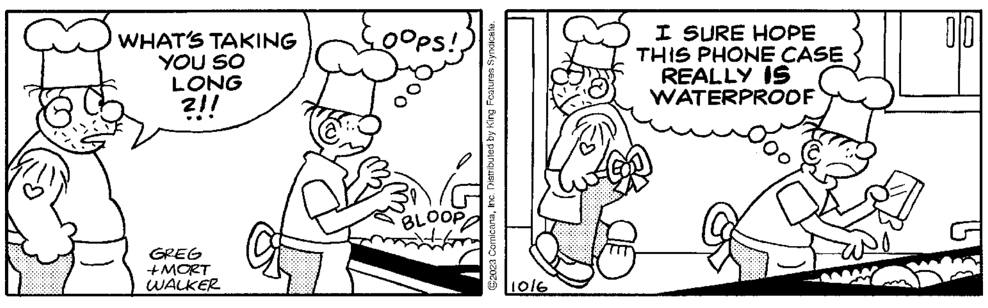
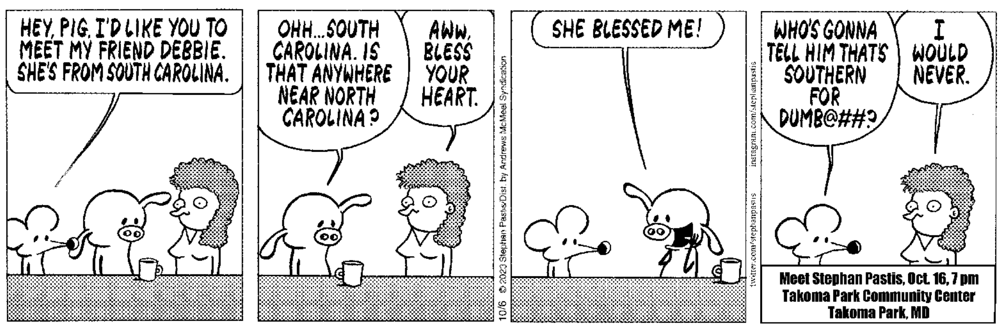
BEETLE BAILEY
GREG, BRIAN & NEAL WALKER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
STEPHAN PASTIS



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | OCTOBER 6

For you, life is an unfolding adventure. You want each day to be meaningful because you're a romantic. This is an exciting year for you. It ushers in a major change. Stay light on your feet so you can go in any new direction. Travel is likely.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Cancer.

ARIES
(MARCH 21-APRIL 19).
This is the perfect day to entertain at home or invite a gathering for social reasons or a specific cause. People will be very friendly today and will be open to an exchange of ideas. You also will be persuasive with a family member or a group.

TAURUS
(APRIL 20-MAY 20).
All your communications with others today will be excellent because you're happy, optimistic and upbeat today. You might persuade someone to see your point of view because you genuinely believe in your ideas.

GEMINI
(MAY 21-JUNE 20).
Business and finance are blessed. This is a wonderful day for important financial negotiations. You also might see ways to boost your income or find a better paying job. Possibly, you can explore earning money through foreign interests.

CANCER
(JUNE 21-JULY 22).
Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with lucky Jupiter, which makes you feel good. You will enjoy friendly relations with others, especially old friends with whom you have strong emotional ties.

LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22).
Today your idealism is aroused, and you will be interested in joining forces with like-minded people to solve problems for those who are less fortunate. Whatever you do will have a benefit for others, and this will also give you a sense of gratification.

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22).
This is an excellent day to hang out with friends. It's also the perfect day for interactions with clubs, groups and organizations, because people will be open to cooperate with each other and be mutually supportive.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22).
People notice you today. Someone will know personal details about your private life. Very likely, you will be admired because of your values and activities that help others. People are idealistic today and keen to join forces to make the world a better place.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 23-NOV. 21).
Grab every opportunity to travel or get a change of scenery today. It will please you. If you can't travel, be a tourist in your own city. You will also welcome a chance to learn new things or begin studying a new course.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21).
This is an excellent day to decide how to divide or share something – for example, an inheritance. People will be more inclined to be fair to each other today. They feel a warm obligation to each other and they have a sense of justice for all concerned.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 19).
This is a great day to schmooze! Make plans for a fun lunch. Relations with close friends, partners and spouses will be especially warm and mutually supportive.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 20-FEB. 18).
You will get the most done today by working with groups or forming a buddy system with someone. Cooperation is the key to this day. People will be eager to help each other. Furthermore, they will enjoy working together.

PISCES
(FEB. 19-MARCH 20).
This is a fun-loving, playful day! Get out and socialize! Enjoy the arts, the theater, movies, plus sports events and enjoyable activities with children. It's also a great date day.

— Georgia Nicols

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PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

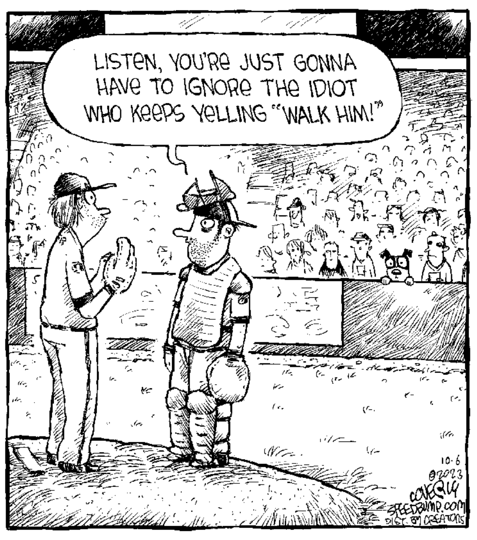
3	6	5	7	9	1	2	8	4
9	8	1	3	4	2	6	5	7
7	4	2	6	5	8	1	9	3
4	9	7	2	3	6	8	1	5
1	3	8	9	7	5	4	6	2
5	2	6	8	1	4	7	3	9
2	5	4	1	8	3	9	7	6
8	7	3	4	6	9	5	2	1
6	1	9	5	2	7	3	4	8

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

M_3	O_1	T_1	I_1	O_1	N_1		RACK 1 =	8
H_4	A_1	T_1	B_3	A_1	N_1	D_2	RACK 2 =	76
B_3	E_1	A_1	T_1	B_3	O_1	X_8	RACK 3 =	68
C_3	H_4	I_1	F_4	F_4	O_1	N_1	RACK 4 =	76

PAR SCORE 165-175 TOTAL 228

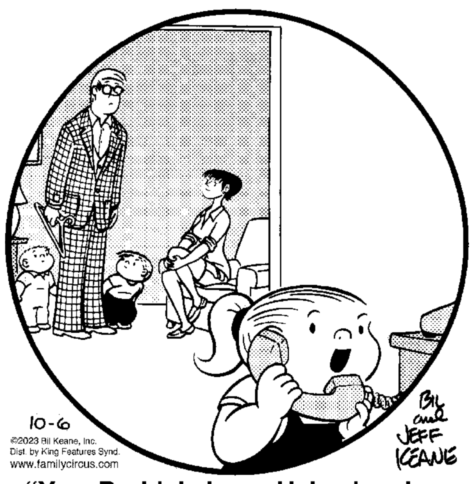
SPEED BUMP
DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE
H. KETCHAM

"LOOKS LIKE YOU CAUGHT ME NAPPIN' ON THE JOB."

FAMILY CIRCUS
BIL KEANE



"Yes, Daddy's here. He's showing everybody his birthday suit."

REPLY ALL LITE
DONNA A. LEWIS

The Washington Post

SPORTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 M2 D

PRO FOOTBALL
To the NFL, Las Vegas used to be radioactive. But after sports betting went mainstream, the league is all in. **A1**

PRO BASKETBALL
Kyle Kuzma got a hefty raise when he re-signed with the Wizards, but his on-court opportunity grew, too. **D2**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Quarterback Kyron Drones is taking charge at Virginia Tech ahead of Saturday's trip to No. 5 Florida State. **D3**

DICK BUTKUS, 80

Legendary linebacker personified the Bears

Bruising Chicago native, an all-time NFL great, dies in sleep, family says

BY DES BIELER

Dick Butkus, the former Chicago Bears standout widely regarded as one of the greatest linebackers of all time, died at 80.

The Bears shared a statement from Butkus's family Thursday announcing that he died in his sleep overnight at his home in Malibu, Calif. No further details were provided.

Playing with a ferocity notable even for the rugged NFL of the 1960s, Butkus quickly developed a larger-than-life persona as a force who careened from sideline to sideline in search of opponents to punish. A native of Chicago who starred at the University of Illinois, he became a particularly beloved figure among Bears fans, who saw in his toughness a reflection of their municipal identity.

The third pick of the 1965 NFL draft, Butkus played until 1973. He earned five first-team all-pro selections and eight Pro Bowl nods, and he finished in the top six in

SEE **BUTKUS** ON **D4**

For Kelce, love story is not going to end well

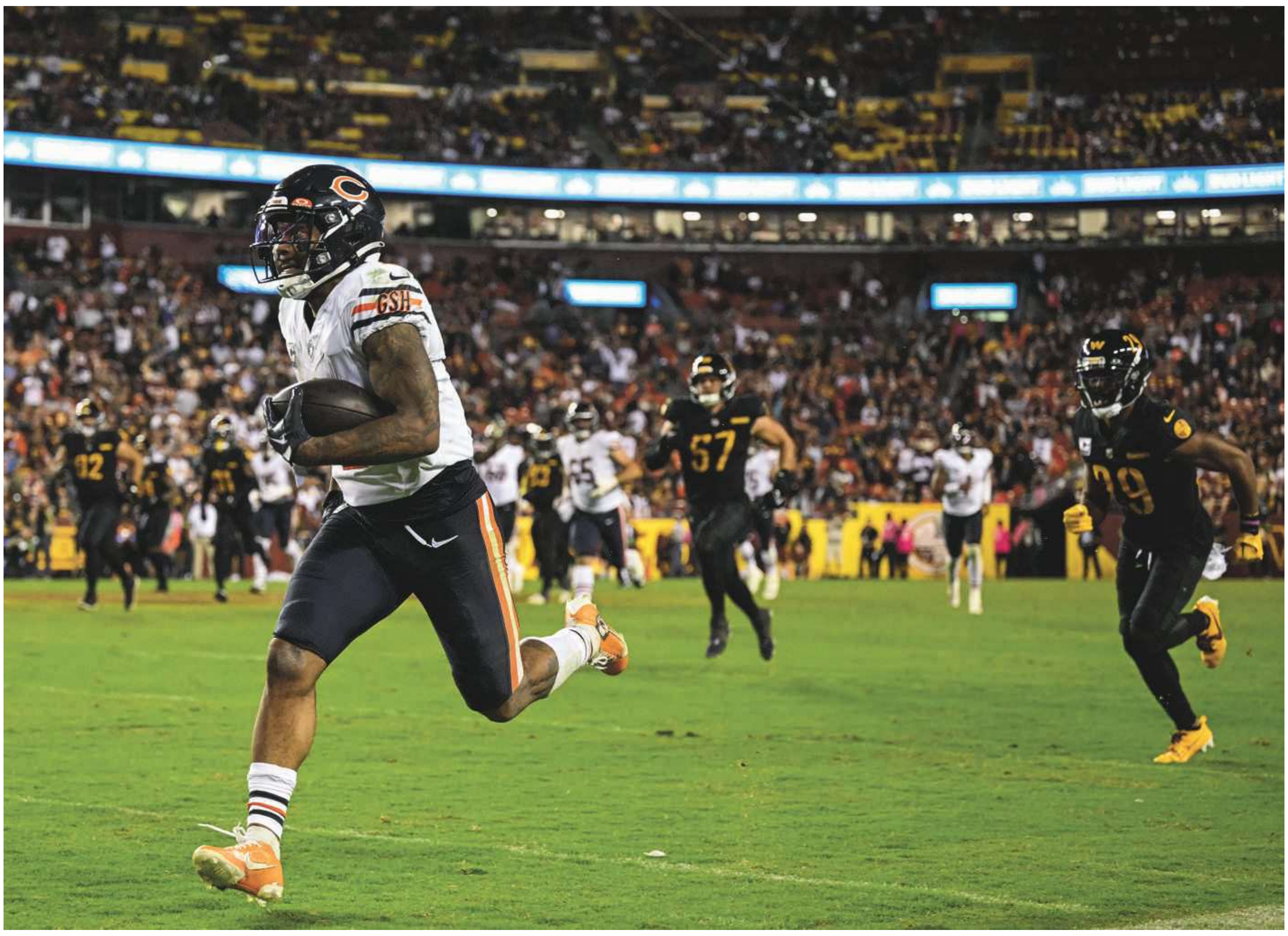
Candace Buckner

This is going to end terribly for Travis Kelce.

Zero chance this turns out well for the Kansas City Chiefs' all-pro tight end, a.k.a. the new favorite NFL player among girls aged 12 to 17. There's absolutely no reality in which he escapes unscathed with his name and reputation as they once were. Kelce's about to be swallowed whole by celebrity. Drowned after drinking from the fire hose of fame. Expelled to the land of notoriety, where they buried Taylor Lautner's career. He just doesn't know it yet.

The only option for survival is if Kelce runs away and marries Taylor Swift. Then America's newest power couple can drive

SEE **BUCKNER** ON **D6**



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

BEARS 40, COMMANDERS 20: DJ Moore dashes to the end zone with his third touchdown catch of the night, a 56-yarder that ended Washington's late hopes.

Unbearable

Under the prime-time lights, the Commanders get manhandled at home by winless Chicago

BY NICKI JHABVALA

It was the type of game that can get someone fired.

On a night when the Washington Commanders needed a resounding victory to rinse the taste of a frustrating overtime loss to a division rival just four days earlier, they instead turned in a dud.

Against the worst team in the NFL.

In prime time.

In front of a sellout crowd at FedEx Field.

The Chicago Bears, who arrived on a franchise-worst 14-game losing streak, broke that skid Thursday night by handing the Commanders a 40-20 drubbing that will raise questions about the future of the team — and certainly about some coaches' jobs.

It all happened while new owner Josh Harris could only watch from his stadium suite.

The damage was severe. Chicago had eight scoring drives and amassed 451 yards. It was the fourth consecutive game that Washington gave up more than 30 points — and it was the Commanders' third straight loss. The Bears didn't even punt until the third quarter.

"We think of ourselves as a top-five defense in the league," Commanders safety Kam Curl said, "but we're not playing like that right now."

Just days after Coach Ron Rivera preached the need to eliminate explosive plays by their opponents, the Commanders (2-3) did the opposite, allowing the Bears to pick apart their defense. And it started immediately.

Cornerback Benjamin St-Juste was beaten by wide receiver DJ Moore for a 58-yard completion along the left sideline on a Bears third and nine during their opening drive. Then, on third and 14 just three plays later, quarterback Justin Fields went back to his favorite target for a

SEE **COMMANDERS** ON **D4**

Commanders at Falcons: Oct. 15, 1 p.m., CBS | **More online:** For a column by Barry Svrluga, visit **postsports.com**.

High school kickers give old stereotypes the boot

No longer 'lonesome,' this new breed of specialists is cool, athletic and transforming the game

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM

Those who stood on Bishop O'Connell's field during a mid-September practice were granted a lapse in focus.

The Knights had established a precedent. When senior Tyler Fontenot got into his stance, you stopped, you turned and you watched.

"I mean, he's a five-star," senior long snapper Kellen McConnell said.

"He makes such a difference," senior quarterback Jonathan Nguyen said.

"Bro's got a massive leg," another teammate offered.

Fontenot, though, isn't just a top recruit; he's a five-star at two positions, one of just 12 seniors in the country with that distinction as both a kicker and a punter. He says he has hit a field goal from 67 yards in practice. And he's more than just a big leg; he's an alchemist at the position, which

SEE **KICKERS** ON **D7**

AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Bishop O'Connell's Tyler Fontenot is one of 12 seniors nationally rated as a five-star kicker and punter.

Biles's pristine execution makes her unstoppable

U.S. star gets a leg up from clean fundamentals and a lack of mistakes

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

ANTWERP, BELGIUM — When Simone Biles competes against the best gymnasts in the world, none of her peers can match the difficulty of her routines. Her reward is a cushion that keeps her glued to the top spot of the standings, even if she falters. Sometimes Biles has leaned on that baked-in advantage, and because of those difficulty scores, she has always prevailed. For more than a decade, she has won every all-around competition she has entered.

The all-around final at the world championships Friday probably will be no different. Biles has soared ahead of the other contenders here, including reigning world champion Rebeca Andrade, the Brazilian who won a year ago when Biles hadn't returned to competition. Biles's commanding victories at major U.S. meets this summer and her so-far spectacular return to the international stage have proved that her dominance now is much like the past.

In the qualifying round at the world championships, the combined value of Biles's difficulty scores (25.4) towered more than 1½ points above Andrade's mark (23.8). The other top athletes — 2022 medalists Shilese Jones of the United States and Jessica Gadirova of Britain — earned at least a 23.0 total, and none of the other competitors surpassed 22.4.

These difficulty scores give

SEE **BILES** ON **D7**

Inside: Fred Richard, an American on the rise, gets a bronze medal. **D7**

With new deal, Wizards' Kuzma finally has exactly what he was looking for

After he signed a four-year, $102 million extension to remain with Washington, the forward has the coveted opportunity to be a team leader

BY AVA WALLACE

JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kyle Kuzma was paid well when he re-signed with the Wizards, but he also will get a chance to be a top option alongside Jordan Poole.

Kyle Kuzma spent the better part of his first two years with the Washington Wizards reminding people he is a winner. He arrived via a 2021 trade with the Los Angeles Lakers with a championship ring that he had won in the NBA's pandemic bubble alongside LeBron James and Anthony Davis, an experience that helped shape his personal standards for how a successful basketball team should operate.

When times were tough with the Wizards over the past two years, a variation of that word would crop up again and again. Often Kuzma would say the team wasn't playing "winning basketball" when he was asked to diagnose issues or that he was a winner who just wants to win when asked about his thoughts after a particularly demoralizing loss.

These days, the Wizards are making it clear that winning is secondary to building a top-tier organization.

So why did the winner stick around?

Money, for one, though that's hardly the only reason. Kuzma was direct from the moment last season he voiced his intentions to test free agency that his next contract would be a business deal for him. He had grown from his sixth-man role with the Lakers into a forward who averaged 21.2 points, 7.2 rebounds and 3.7 assists in 64 games last season, and he would sign with whichever team most valued his expanded talents. Washington's new front office offered him a four-year, $102 million contract that nearly doubled his average annual salary.

But Kuzma has also seen plenty of examples of players prioritizing good money over good situations and spending a basketball season mired in misery. The Wizards, under the new leadership of Monumental Basketball President Michael Winger and General Manager Will Dawkins, offered Kuzma the money he felt he deserved, the professionalism and communication he said he craved and, critically, the chance to be No. 1 (or co-No. 1) on the call sheet alongside 24-year-old Jordan Poole.

Beyond winning, beyond money, that's the thing Kuzma has talked about most since he was unexpectedly traded two seasons ago and had to make the best of a situation he didn't ask for. The 28-year-old absorbed more than winning habits playing alongside James in his Lakers days. He saw firsthand the value, power and influence of being a centerpiece player on an NBA team. He craved the challenge of keeping — and then retaining — that spot. Playing with the Wizards has always been about the opportunity to climb to the top of a team's hierarchy.

"I've said it before: I want to have a chance to lead people and really have a lasting impact on an organization, and this was the best opportunity for me to do that," Kuzma said during Wizards media day Monday.

When the Golden State Warriors traded Poole to the Wizards in June, Poole said he immediately knew convincing Kuzma to stay would be critical to the team's success. Poole valued Kuzma for his institutional knowledge when he knew the roster would be guided by new coaches and a new front office would be running the show. The pair understood growth would be slow and methodical, and they talked about their chance to be leaders.

"You feel it — the authenticity, the knowledge, the basketball knowledge, his experience," Poole said this week. "Being able to have a running mate like that is huge, especially when we have a new group, new front office, new coaches. As long as you think the right way and have the right perspective, everything else will kind of just fall in place."

As for that perspective, Coach Wes Unseld Jr. said he feels Poole and Kuzma have "bought in" to the rebuild and embrace the challenge ahead.

Kuzma is enjoying flexing his leadership skills and not having to defer to anyone else when he has an opinion to share. He is also trying to remember that just because he can talk doesn't mean he should.

"It's definitely good, being in the situation I'm in, just feeling free, feeling like my opinion matters, and that's what we all want as players and human beings," Kuzma said. "We want to feel respected, and that matters, so naturally I'm not going to say much right now. I'm not talking nobody's head off. We're a young team. Everybody wants to feel themselves and get out and go. It's the first week of training camp. I think the main thing today and this first part of preseason is really just about getting familiar with each other because it's a long season."

What the Wizards require of Kuzma on the court is not easy. They want more expansion from the player Dawkins described late last month as "getting toward his prime" — expansion to the defensive end of the court.

Dawkins and Unseld see Kuzma as a potential defensive anchor. That could be a massive shift for the guy who averaged more shot attempts (17.8 per game) than any Wizard last season, including Bradley Beal and Kristaps Porzingis.

"We have to find a way for him to get more consistent [on defense]," Unseld said. "Some of that's maybe taking a little less onus of the offense — now you have a little more legs to lock in and defend at a high level for as close to 48 [minutes] as possible. But he's certainly capable. And I think that's not just on him; that's on us as a group to make that more of a priority."

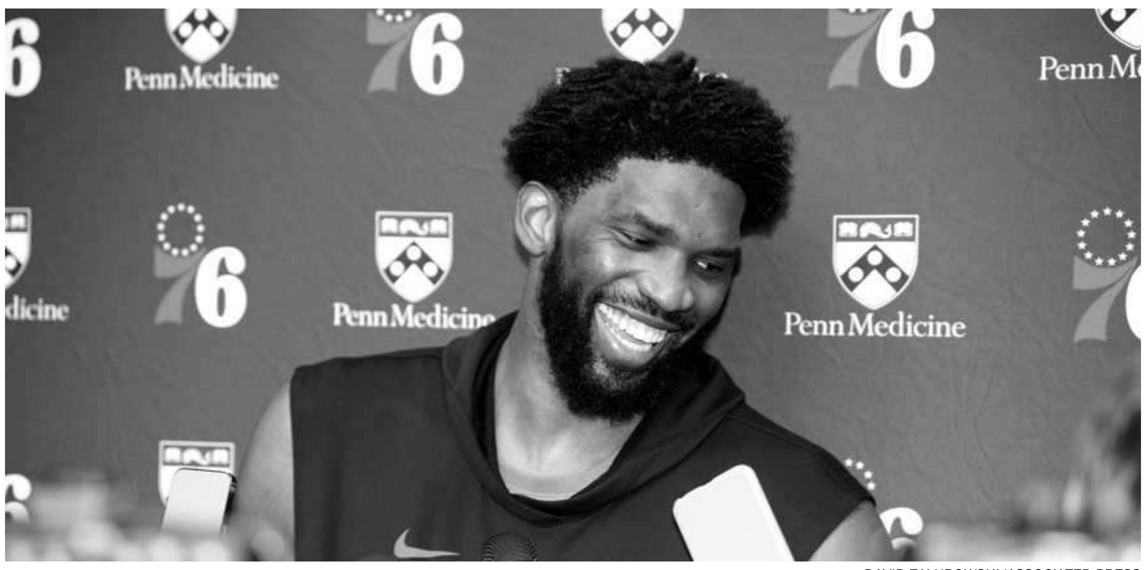
Kuzma, who dyed his hair an inky blue to begin a new chapter with the Wizards, wants to achieve that consistency, too. It's going to be harder than ever before because of his new status on the roster.

"I know a lot of times, most nights, I'm going to have [the opponent's] primary defenders on me," he said. ". . . When you're in the type of position I'm in, you have to produce every night and be consistent with it."

That new challenge and new opportunity for growth are what Kuzma said he has long wanted from his basketball career. Now he has to live up to his own expectations.

Reigning NBA MVP Embiid elects to play for United States at Paris Games

BY BEN GOLLIVER



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 76ers' Joel Embiid chose to represent the United States over France and his native Cameroon.

The reigning NBA MVP committed to the next "Dream Team."

Joel Embiid plans to represent the United States at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, choosing a spot on the four-time defending Olympic gold medalists over playing for France or his native Cameroon, the Philadelphia 76ers center said in a statement Thursday.

The 29-year-old star, who has never played in the Olympics or the FIBA World Cup, offers a much-needed dose of size and physicality to the American front line. The United States finished fourth last month at the World Cup, during which an undersized front line led by Jaren Jackson Jr. proved to be a recurring problem in losses to Lithuania, Germany and Canada. At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the United States won gold with Bam Adebayo and journeyman JaVale McGee as the only centers on the 12-man roster.

"I'm really proud and excited about this decision," Embiid said. "It was not easy. I am blessed to call Cameroon, France and the USA home. After talking to my family, I knew it had to be Team USA. I want to play with my brothers in the league. I want to play for my fans because they've been incredible since the day I came here. But most of all, I want to honor my son who was born in the US. I want my boy to know I played my first Olympics for him."

Embiid's commitment follows a host of NBA stars expressing serious interest in competing at the Olympics during media days this week. Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant and Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry could take the court together in Paris for the first time in their USA Basketball careers.

"I do have interest," James said. "We'll see what happens. As far as a physical toll, we'll see how I feel at the end of the season. From the players we have here that I can think of off the top of my head to fill that roster up, I don't think it would be too much of a physical toll. I wouldn't have to do much."

Durant has stated unequivocally that he would play in Paris, while Curry spoke optimistically about making his Olympic debut.

"I've talked to some people about the opportunity, and definitely, if all things stay the same, I want to be playing," Curry said. "It's the one thing I haven't done. It's the opportunity for USA Basketball to reassert yourselves as the dominant [team] in the world. I definitely want to be there."

Though USA Basketball Coach Steve Kerr cultivated a fast and versatile style during the World Cup, the American big men were consistently outrebounded and Jackson was plagued by foul trouble. In Paris, the U.S. team will face possible matchups with Serbia's Nikola Jokic and France's Rudy Gobert and Victor Wembanyama, as well as potential rematches against Germany and Canada.

Embiid averaged a league-leading 33.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 4.2 assists last season but was limited by a knee sprain in the playoffs. At 76ers media day Monday, Embiid, who was born in Cameroon and holds French and U.S. citizenship, said his "goal is to play in the Olympics" and that he "love[d] all three options."

The Olympic men's basketball tournament will run from July 27 to Aug. 10, 2024, giving NBA players more than a month of rest following the NBA Finals. The United States took gold at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympics under Mike Krzyzewski before the San Antonio Spurs' Gregg Popovich guided the program to gold in 2021.

DIGEST

COLLEGES

Fitzgerald files lawsuit against Northwestern

Former Northwestern football coach **Pat Fitzgerald** on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the school seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in damages after he was fired in July over allegations of hazing in the Wildcats program.

The lawsuit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court in Illinois, alleges six violations by Northwestern: breach of oral contract, breach of written contract, intentional infliction of emotional distress, defamation, false light and interference with a business expectancy.

Fitzgerald is seeking the remaining $68 million salary left on his contract, which was scheduled to run through 2031 before Northwestern fired him for cause, and damages "for his lost ability to obtain similar employment during the prime of his professional coaching career."

He also is seeking "compensatory damages for emotional distress suffered by Fitzgerald and his family" and punitive damages based on Northwestern's "intentional or willful and wanton conduct."

— Matt Bonesteel

The NCAA said it granted a waiver for immediate eligibility to North Carolina wide receiver **Devontez "Tez" Walker**, reversing its position after the school had fought for months to get the transfer on the field.

BASEBALL

Billy Eppler quit as general manager of the New York Mets, three days after **David Stearns** was hired above him as the team's first president of baseball operations.

Eppler's decision continues an overhaul that followed a fourth-place NL East finish for a team with World Series aspirations. Mets owner **Steve Cohen** fired manager **Buck Showalter** on Sunday.

A few hours later, the New York Post reported Eppler was the subject of an MLB investigation of alleged improper use of the injured list, an investigation an MLB spokesperson confirmed to The Washington Post on Thursday night without providing details. The Mets did not refer to the investigation when they announced the surprising development. . . .

Houston Astros right-hander **Justin Verlander** and left-hander Framber Valdez will start the first two games of the American League Division Series against the Minnesota Twins. . . .

Bob Melvin confirmed he will be back as manager of the San Diego Padres after the team missed the playoffs this year.

SOCCER

Ryan Gravenberch scored his first goal for his new club as Liverpool defeated visiting Union Saint-Gilloise, 2-0, in the Europa League.

The Reds are two points clear atop Group E ahead of Toulouse, who beat Austria's LASK, 1-0, at home.

Goals from **Lucas Paquetá** and **Nayef Aguerd** helped West Ham make it two wins from two games in the Europa League with a 2-1 victory at Freiburg in Group A.

In Group B, **João Pedro** converted a penalty two minutes from time to earn Brighton its first point in European competition as it held Marseille to a 2-2 draw in France.

Romelu Lukaku converted a cross from **Zeki Celik** as host Roma handled Servette Geneva, 4-0, to tie for the Group G lead. . . .

Barcelona will be without **Robert Lewandowski** as it turns its focus back to the Spanish league after he sprained his left ankle in the team's 1-0 win at Porto on Wednesday.

GOLF

Chesson Hadley played a bogey-free first round at the Sanderson Farms Championship and posted an 8-under-par 64 for a one-shot lead in his latest bid to secure his PGA Tour card.

Hadley had two stretches of three straight birdies on a day of ever-shifting weather in Jackson, Miss., to move past **Henrik Norlander** and **Brandon Wu**, who each shot a 65. . . .

Hyo Joo Kim took an early lead at the Ascendant LPGA, pulling away with a 7-under 64 in The Colony, Tex. . . .

Peter Uihlein, **Sebastian Soderberg** and **Adri Arnaus** shot 8-under 64s to share the lead at the Dunhill Links Championship on the DP World Tour in St. Andrews, Scotland.

TENNIS

Top-ranked **Aryna Sabalenka** set up a quarterfinal match against **Elena Rybakina** at the China Open by beating **Jasmine Paolini**, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), in Beijing.

Coco Gauff saved four set points before beating **Veronika Kudermetova**, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Earlier, ninth-seeded **Caroline Garcia** beat **Anhelina Kalinina**, 6-3, 6-2, and will next play second-ranked **Iga Swiatek**.

At the Shanghai Masters, **Gregoire Barrere** took down **Nonu Borges**, 6-2, 6-2, in the first round to set up a meeting with top-seeded **Carlos Alcaraz**.

HOCKEY

Defenseman **Jamie Drysdale** agreed to a three-year, $6.9 million contract with the Anaheim Ducks, ending his lengthy absence from the team.

Drysdale, the sixth overall pick in the 2020 draft, scored 32 points in 81 games in the 2021-22 season. A torn labrum limited him to eight games last season. . . .

Los Angeles Kings right winger **Arthur Kaliyev** was suspended four games — two preseason and two regular season — without pay for kneeing Anaheim's **Chase De Leo** in Tuesday's preseason game.

MISC.

Mat Ishbia, owner of the NBA's Phoenix Suns and WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, said he will spend more than $100 million to build a practice facility for the Mercury and a campus for employees of both teams. . . .

Hailie Deegan, the only woman competing full time at NASCAR's national level, will make the move to the second-tier Xfinity Series next season.

— From news services and staff reports

TELEVISION AND RADIO

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

7 p.m.	**Cornell at Harvard** » ESPN2
7:30 p.m.	**Kansas State at Oklahoma State** » ESPN
8 p.m.	**Nebraska at Illinois** » Fox Sports 1

NHL PRESEASON

7 p.m.	**Pittsburgh at Buffalo** » NHL Network
10 p.m.	**Calgary at Vancouver** » NHL Network

AUTO RACING

9:30 a.m.	**Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix, practice** » ESPN2
1 p.m.	**Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix, qualifying** » ESPN2

GOLF

7 a.m.	**DP World Tour: Links Championship, second round** » Golf Channel
Noon	**Korn Ferry Tour: Tour Championship, second round** » Golf Channel
2 p.m.	**PGA Junior League Championship, first round** » Golf Channel
2 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: Furyk and Friends, first round** » Golf Channel
4 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Sanderson Farms Championship, second round** » Golf Channel

SOCCER

2:30 p.m.	**Women's Super League: Arsenal at Manchester United** » CBS Sports Network
3 p.m.	**French Ligue 1: Nantes at Strasbourg** » beIN Sports
8 p.m.	**NWSL: Washington at OL Reign** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)

TENNIS

5 a.m.	**ATP: Shanghai Masters, early rounds; WTA: China Open, quarterfinals** » Tennis Channel
12:30 a.m. (Saturday)	**ATP: Shanghai Masters, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

7 p.m.	**Edmonton at Toronto** » CBS Sports Network

COLLEGE FIELD HOCKEY

4 p.m.	**Northwestern at Iowa** » Big Ten Network
6 p.m.	**Wake Forest at Louisville** » ACC Network

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

7:30 p.m.	**Syracuse at North Carolina** » ACC Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

6 p.m.	**Northwestern at Michigan** » Big Ten Network
7 p.m.	**Texas A&M at Mississippi** » SEC Network
8 p.m.	**Minnesota at Maryland** » Big Ten Network

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

10 p.m.	**Cathedral Catholic (Calif.) at Prestonwood Christian (Tex.)** » ESPNU

RYAN HUNT/GETTY IMAGES

Kyron Drones, above, passed for three touchdowns and ran for two more while playing in place of the injured Grant Wells on Saturday.

Hokies' Drones may be ascending to starting QB

Transfer from Baylor could take over after five-touchdown effort

BY GENE WANG

Early in the third quarter of Saturday's game against Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech quarterback Kyron Drones tucked the ball and ran for a touchdown on third and goal from the 10-yard line. The sequence featured the redshirt sophomore dragging several defenders to the end zone before spiking the ball and igniting a jubilant celebration.

Officials assessed an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against Drones, but it barely registered with Hokies supporters who packed Lane Stadium in Blacksburg. They were too busy reveling in a moment that helped deliver a convincing 38-21 victory and ended a three-game slide.

Drones threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more to energize a fan base that had grown increasingly disgruntled with the play of quarterback Grant Wells, who won the job toward the end of preseason camp but has labored through injury and inconsistency.

The redshirt senior missed the past three games with a sore ankle suffered Sept. 9 in a 24-17 loss to Purdue. His status remains in doubt for Saturday's game against fifth-ranked Florida State in Tallahassee, according to Hokies Coach Brent Pry, who stopped short of confirming Drones has taken over as the starter before the team's biggest test of the season.

"Honestly, right now we don't have to answer that question," Pry said Tuesday. "We've got to see what kind of week Grant has. He's got to get well, but obviously I'm super excited, and so is the staff, about the game that Kyron played and the progress he made from the previous week to this week. I'm anxious to see him play again and play well."

Drones completed 12 of 19 passes for 228 yards without an interception and ran 21 times for 41 yards. It was by far his most complete showing since he transferred from Baylor, where he played five games last year.

Named ACC quarterback of the week, Drones became the first Hokies player responsible for five touchdowns in a game since Josh Jackson in 2017. Drones also directed Virginia Tech (2-3, 1-0 ACC) to its most points since Pry, formerly the defensive coordinator at Penn State, took over as coach following the 2021 season.

Entering the Pittsburgh game, Drones had thrown one touchdown pass in four games and had yet to surpass 200 yards while gaining comfort with the playbook under second-year offensive coordinator Tyler Bowen.

"I just kept having confidence throughout the week," said Drones, who has played in every game this year as part of Pry's plan to develop him as the presumptive starter next season. "The team got better throughout the week. That was our best week of practice, and we've just got to go and be better next week."

Against the Panthers, the Hokies reached season highs in carries (59) and yards rushing (199). Running back Bhayshul Tuten led the charge with a game-high 109 yards on 24 attempts.

The transfer from North Carolina A&T contributed significantly to the Hokies' 427 yards of offense and 25 first downs, both season highs, allowing Virginia Tech to overcome 10 penalties for 91 yards. The Hokies' previous high in total yards was 368 in a season-opening 36-17 win against Old Dominion.

"I thought we had a good plan, and we got it in place early where we got a chance to practice it a bunch," Pry said. "Guys got comfortable with it, particularly Kyron, and we were able to go out and execute it. Again, we can sit in there all day long and come up with lots of good stuff that makes sense to us as coaches, but it has to make sense to the players, and I thought it was a good mix."

The offense remains shorthanded this week with wide receiver Ali Jennings on the mend with an ankle ailment. The transfer from Old Dominion missed the past three games and all but several snaps of another when he suffered the injury against the Boilermakers in the first quarter.

The Hokies did have wide receiver Jaylin Lane for a second straight game after the transfer from Middle Tennessee sat out one with an undisclosed injury. Lane had two catches for 64 yards and a touchdown against Pittsburgh.

The status of starting safety Nasir Peoples remains uncertain heading into a matchup against the No. 2 scoring offense in the ACC. Florida State is averaging 43.3 points behind one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the nation in Jordan Travis, a redshirt senior transfer from Louisville.

"He's getting close," Pry said of Peoples, who missed the past four games, with cornerback Mansoor Delane converted to safety in his place. "He'll be a guy who's questionable right now. We'll see how he does [Tuesday and Wednesday], but I would think that has a chance to be a Friday, Saturday decision."

Virginia Tech at Florida State
Tomorrow, 3:30 p.m., ABC

A new helmet could change the game for Gallaudet

Quarterbacks will be able to see coaches' play calls in augmented reality

BY DES BIELER

When Gallaudet University takes the field Saturday, the Bison will be bringing a piece of equipment that could turn into a game changer — and not just for football players who happen to be deaf or hard of hearing.

In a matchup with visiting Hilbert College, which agreed to the arrangement, Gallaudet quarterbacks will use special helmets that allow them to see play calls in augmented reality (AR). Using a tablet from the sideline, Bison Coach Chuck Goldstein can also alert his quarterbacks that he wants their attention.

Both are welcome developments for a team that, in a world of shouts and whistles, relies on visual communication.

"It's not going to level the playing field for us," Goldstein said this week, "but it's going to bridge the gap."

The product of a partnership between AT&T and the D.C. institution, which is unique among universities for its mission to provide the deaf and signing community with intellectual and professional opportunities, the helmet was authorized by the NCAA for one-time use in Saturday's game. A spokesman for college sports' governing body said NCAA officials "look forward to seeing the results of this new technology."

Also excited about what's set to unfold at Gallaudet's Hotchkiss Field is starting quarterback Brandon Washington, who said this week via email, "This is going to be an awesome experience."

The helmet includes a lens that will receive signals, sped there by 5G technology, from Goldstein's tablet. Through the lens, Washington will be able to see the play call typed out in his AR view. If Goldstein hits the exclamation point, a red light will appear, notifying the quarterback to stop what he is doing and look back over to his coach. When the call is set, Washington will relay it to his teammates in the huddle using American Sign Language (ASL).

"Our kids are having fun with it," Goldstein said of the helmet. "The huddles have been *smooth*. Our quarterback doesn't even look at me anymore."

The normal process, in which Gallaudet players have to stare at the sideline to get the play call, has worked well enough to allow the Bison to enjoy their fair share of success in the Division III Eastern Collegiate Football Conference. Gallaudet won the league for the second time last season under Goldstein, who took over the program in 2009.

As Washington explained, though, making sure he gets the correct play call can be tricky, including when the Bison are near the goal line. "I can't always see coaches ASL from far away," the junior quarterback from Citronelle, Ala., wrote.

Goldstein cited a game last season in which he called a successful quarterback sneak at the goal line but then wanted to run that play again later with a wrinkle involving a pass. However, his quarterback turned away after seeing only the signs for the sneak, leaving Goldstein with no way to tell the player there was more to the call. Last week, he said, a quarterback who is still learning ASL misread a call while the offensive linemen saw it correctly, leading to a botched play. Then there are the times Goldstein notices an aspect to a defensive formation that he can't do much about once the play has been relayed, unless another player runs up to the quarterback and gives a helpful tap.

"Any hearing team, if they see something, they can get their quarterback's attention and they can change the play," the coach said. "Sometimes we get stuck, and we have to live with the mistake. That's just who we are."

The helmet will allow the Bison to get unstuck in those situations. If further implemented, the technology promises much more.

For instance, Goldstein said, if his defensive players were allowed to use the helmet, they could avoid certain penalties or even situations with the potential to result in injury. The coach pointed to an incident in a recent game when a Gallaudet cornerback lined up in the neutral zone and couldn't hear an official trying to tell the player to move back a bit. An ensuing penalty negated a turnover by the other team on the play.

As for reducing the risk of physical harm, Goldstein said "one of the biggest things we struggle with is hearing whistles." That can be problematic, he continued, when opposing ballcarriers keep going after an official has blown the play dead.

"Our guys on defense don't hear whistles, and they attack," the coach said. "They are aggressive. If the referee blows a whistle and an offensive player is making an athletic move, he is getting tattooed. Like, we are not stopping. Every year, we get at least three to five [penalties for] late hits.

"What if we could have all 11 players on defense in this?" Goldstein continued. "Then, when we hear a whistle, a coach hits the button — everybody would stop."

The technology "could also help deaf and hard of hearing players on high school hearing teams," Washington wrote. Because of the greater need for communication on offense, Goldstein said, those players are often relegated to defensive roles that don't necessarily make the best use of their talents.

"This could give them a better experience, and you never know where that could lead them and not hold them back," the coach said.

In a news release, AT&T posited that further iterations of the helmet could prove their worth in other realms, possibly by helping "improve safety on construction sites or for first responders."

If the 5G-connected helmet catches on across the football world, it won't be the first time Gallaudet has played a part in revolutionizing the sport. The school, which first played competitive football in 1883, takes credit for inventing the huddle just over a decade later. The practice of having players form a circle before disseminating the play call, per the school, was intended to prevent other teams from spotting the ASL signs involved.

Regardless of where it goes from here, Goldstein is delighted Gallaudet is finally "going to use this sucker in a game," following a two-year project that began with his players in mind.

"This is something for *them*," the coach said, "to give them an opportunity others have that they don't. I think that's powerful."

WEEKEND TV AND RADIO

Tomorrow

MLB PLAYOFFS — DIVISION SERIES

1 p.m.	**American League, Game 1: Texas at Baltimore** » Fox Sports 1, WIYY (97.9 FM)
4:45 p.m.	**American League, Game 1: Minnesota at Houston** » Fox Sports 1
6 p.m.	**National League, Game 1: Philadelphia at Atlanta** » TBS
9:20 p.m.	**National League, Game 1: Arizona at Los Angeles Dodgers** »TBS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Noon	**Oklahoma vs. Texas** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
Noon	**Maryland at Ohio State** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45), WTEM (980 AM)
Noon	**LSU at Missouri** » ESPN
Noon	**Toledo at Massachusetts** » ESPNU
Noon	**Western Michigan at Mississippi State** » SEC Network
Noon	**William & Mary at Virginia** » ACC Network, WSBN (630 AM)
Noon	**Boston College at Army** » CBS Sports Network
Noon	**Rutgers at Wisconsin** » Peacock
2 p.m.	**Marshall at North Carolina State** » WDCW (Ch. 50), WNUV (Ch. 54)
3 p.m.	**Howard at Northwestern** » Big Ten Network
3 p.m.	**Washington State at UCLA** » Pac-12 Network
3:30 p.m.	**Virginia Tech at Florida State** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2), WJFK (106.7 FM)
3:30 p.m.	**Alabama at Texas A&M** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
3:30 p.m.	**Syracuse at North Carolina** » ESPN
3:30 p.m.	**Texas State at Louisiana Lafayette** » ESPNU
3:30 p.m.	**Maine at Richmond** » MASN
3:30 p.m.	**Wake Forest at Clemson** » ACC Network
3:30 p.m.	**North Texas at Navy** » CBS Sports Network, WFED (1500 AM)
3:30 p.m.	**Purdue at Iowa** » Peacock
4 p.m.	**Central Florida at Kansas** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
4 p.m.	**South Florida at UAB** » ESPN2
4 p.m.	**Vanderbilt at Florida** » SEC Network
6:30 p.m.	**Colorado at Arizona State** » Pac-12 Network
7 p.m.	**Kentucky at Georgia** » ESPN
7 p.m.	**Florida A&M at Southern** » ESPNU
7:30 p.m.	**Notre Dame at Louisville** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
7:30 p.m.	**Michigan at Minnesota** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
7:30 p.m.	**Arkansas at Mississippi** » SEC Network
8 p.m.	**Fresno State at Wyoming** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
8 p.m.	**Texas Tech at Baylor** » ESPN2
8 p.m.	**TCU at Iowa State** » Fox Sports 2
8 p.m.	**Georgia Tech at Miami** » ACC Network
8 p.m.	**San Jose State at Boise State** » CBS Sports Network
10 p.m.	**Oregon State at California** » Pac-12 Network
10:30 p.m.	**Arizona at Southern California** » ESPN

NBA PRESEASON

Noon	**Minnesota vs. Dallas** » NBA TV
8:30 p.m.	**Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State** » NBA TV

NHL PRESEASON

4 p.m.	**Vegas at Los Angeles** » NHL Network
7 p.m.	**Columbus at Washington** » Monumental Sports Network, WTEM (980 AM)
7 p.m.	**Toronto at Detroit** » NHL Network

AUTO RACING

9 a.m.	**Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix, sprint** » ESPN2
12:30 p.m.	**NASCAR Cup Series: Roval 400, practice and qualifying** » USA Network
1:30 p.m.	**Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix, qualifying** » ESPNews
3 p.m.	**NASCAR Xfinity Series: Drive for the Cure 250** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

GOLF

7 a.m.	**DP World Tour: Links Championship, third round** » Golf Channel
11 a.m.	**PGA Junior League Championship, second round** » ESPNews
Noon	**Korn Ferry Tour: Tour Championship, third round** » Golf Channel
2 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: Furyk and Friends, second round** » Golf Channel
4 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Sanderson Farms Championship, third round** » Golf Channel

SOCCER

7:30 a.m.	**English Premier League: Tottenham at Luton Town** » USA Network
10 a.m.	**English Premier League: Brentford at Manchester United** » USA Network
11 a.m.	**Saudi Pro League: Al Okhdood at Al Hilal** » Fox Sports 2
11 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Nice at Metz** » beIN Sports
12:30 p.m.	**English Premier League: Nottingham Forest at Crystal Palace** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
1 p.m.	**Turkish Super Lig: Galatasaray at Antalyaspor** » beIN Sports
3 p.m.	**French Ligue 1: Monaco at Reims** » beIN Sports
7:30 p.m.	**MLS: New York City FC at D.C. United** » Apple TV Plus, WONK (104.7 FM)

TENNIS

8:30 a.m.	**ATP: Shanghai Masters, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Noon	**Indiana at Penn State** » Big Ten Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

6:30 p.m.	**Ohio State at Penn State** » Big Ten Network
8:30 p.m.	**Nebraska at Michigan** » Big Ten Network

Sunday

NFL

9:30 a.m.	**Jacksonville vs. Buffalo** » NFL Network
1 p.m.	**Baltimore at Pittsburgh** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13), WBAL (1090 AM), WBAL (101.5 FM)
4 p.m.	**Philadelphia at Los Angeles Rams** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
4:20 p.m.	**Kansas City at Minnesota** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
8:20 p.m.	**Dallas at San Francisco** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11), WJFK (106.7 FM)

MLB PLAYOFFS — DIVISION SERIES

4 p.m.	**American League, Game 2: Texas at Baltimore** » Fox Sports 1, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
8 p.m.	**American League, Game 2: Minnesota at Houston** » Fox Sports 1

WNBA FINALS

3 p.m.	**Game 1: New York at Las Vegas** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)

NBA PRESEASON

3 p.m.	**Phoenix at Detroit** » NBA TV
6 p.m.	**Philadelphia at Boston** » ESPN
9 p.m.	**Utah vs. Los Angeles Clippers** » NBA TV

AUTO RACING

1 p.m.	**Formula One: Qatar Grand Prix** » ESPN2
2:30 p.m.	**NASCAR Cup Series: Roval 400** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

GOLF

6:30 a.m.	**DP World Tour: Links Championship, final** » Golf Channel
1 p.m.	**Korn Ferry Tour: Tour Championship, final round** » Golf Channel
3 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: Furyk and Friends, final round** » Golf Channel
4 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Sanderson Farms Championship, final round** » Golf Channel
5 p.m.	**PGA Junior League Championship, final round** » ESPN2

SOCCER

7 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Le Havre at Olympique Marseille** » beIN Sports
9 a.m.	**English Premier League: Newcastle United at West Ham United** » USA Network
9 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Lorient at Olympique Lyonnais** » beIN Sports
11 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Lille at Lens** » beIN Sports
1 p.m.	**Turkish Super Lig: Fenerbahce at Kasimpasa** » beIN Sports
2:45 p.m.	**French Ligue 1: Paris Saint-Germain at Rennes** » beIN Sports
7 p.m.	**NWSL: Angel City at Houston** » CBS Sports Network

TENNIS

8:30 a.m.	**ATP: Shanghai Masters, early rounds** » Tennis Channel

MEN'S RUGBY

Noon	**World Cup, Group B: Ireland vs. Scotland** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL

9:30 p.m.	**Athletes Unlimited: Team Nootsara vs. Team De La Cruz** » ESPNU

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

2 p.m.	**Florida at Georgia** » ESPNU
2 p.m.	**Illinois at Minnesota** » Big Ten Network
2 p.m.	**Virginia at North Carolina State** » ACC Network
3 p.m.	**Vanderbilt at Kentucky** » SEC Network
4 p.m.	**North Carolina at Duke** » ACC Network
5 p.m.	**Tennessee at LSU** » SEC Network
7 p.m.	**Mississippi at Mississippi State** » ESPNU
7 p.m.	**Arkansas at Auburn** » SEC Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Noon	**Wake Forest at Syracuse** » ACC Network
1 p.m.	**LSU at Tennessee** » ESPN2
4 p.m.	**Auburn at South Carolina** » ESPNU

NFL WEEK 5

JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Commanders quarterback Sam Howell is stopped on a two-point conversion attempt in the fourth quarter Thursday against a Bears team that had lost its previous 14 games. Howell also was sacked five times.

Commanders are roughed up by previously winless Chicago

COMMANDERS FROM **D1**

20-yard touchdown.

Second-year safety Percy Butler drifted inside in coverage, leaving the left side of the field without help over the top. Moore slipped past cornerback Kendall Fuller and had a clear lane to the end zone.

The crowd at packed FedEx Field was silenced, but Moore, the former Maryland standout, was just getting started.

"A slow start, first and foremost," Rivera said. "We did not come out and slow them down. . . . It starts at the top. We got to be better, and that's on me."

The Bears (1-4), who hadn't won since Oct. 24, 2022, needed only 2:56 to torch the Commanders. But it got worse — much worse.

Running back Khalil Herbert collected 34 yards on a run up the middle on Chicago's subsequent drive, easily slipping through the grasp of rookie cornerback Emmanuel Forbes Jr. to help set up a field goal.

Washington's response: a three-play drive that resulted in the loss of a yard — a gift, really. Chicago happily accepted as Fields again found Moore on third-and-long early in the second quarter for an 11-yard touchdown that extended the Bears' lead to 17-0.

Though little worked on offense, even less worked on defense for the Commanders in the first half. The once-formidable line was gashed, the second level was practically nonexistent, and the secondary was a bumbling mess.

The only thing keeping the Commanders from being shut out in the first half was a 51-yard field goal by Joey Slye. And the only thing that spared their defense from a complete implosion was its efforts in the red zone, where it reduced two potential touchdowns to field goals.

But any shred of momentum was short-lived. After St-Juste stayed glued to wideout Darnell Mooney in coverage to force an incompletion in the end zone and a subsequent field goal by the Bears, quarterback Sam Howell was picked off. Chicago quickly scored again, this time on a Cole Kmet touchdown catch.

As the Commanders jogged off the field at halftime, trailing 27-3, the crowd erupted in boos — with good reason. Quite a few, actually.

Washington picked up just 84 yards as Chicago amassed 307 in the first half. The Bears had 14 first downs to Washington's five and converted 67 percent of their third downs while the Commanders could convert just 40 percent.

"I think some of it is just missed opportunities," Rivera said of the Bears' many explosive plays. "Sometimes it's not about going after the ball as much as it is about securing the tackle."

Although the Commanders responded appropriately to open the second half — a 75-yard scoring drive that Howell (37 for 51 for 388 yards, two touchdowns, one interception and five sacks) capped with a two-yard touchdown pass to Logan Thomas and a run for the two-point conversion — the costly mistakes continued, watering down any momentum. Thomas fumbled on the Commanders' next drive.

Later in the third quarter, Howell connected with running back Antonio Gibson, who lined up at receiver and picked up 41 yards on a catch-and-run. But Howell was sacked two plays later on a cornerback blitz. The culprit? Greg Stroman Jr., the former Washington player who had picked off Howell earlier.

The Commanders salvaged that drive with a 32-yard field goal (that prompted more boos) but, again, the mistakes.

Forbes, who was torched by the Philadelphia Eagles in a frustrating 34-31 road loss Sunday, missed another tackle on Moore to allow a 32-yard gain just before the end of the quarter. That led to three more points for Chicago to make it 30-14, and by the fourth quarter the rookie was benched for Danny Johnson.

"The thought process was he was struggling," Rivera said of benching Forbes. "We were hoping he would bounce back from last week and, you know, we felt it was time to make a move."

Although Washington came back to make it a 10-point game on a three-yard touchdown catch by Curtis Samuel, it couldn't get out of its own way long enough to build on it. In position to narrow the Bears' lead to one score, Slye pushed a 46-yard field goal attempt wide right, sending a swath of fans to the exits.

The full exodus followed minutes later when Fuller missed a tackle, giving Moore another clear lane for a 56-yard touchdown. He finished with eight catches for 230 yards and three touchdowns.

"Tonight the Commanders played with no intensity or fire," Magic Johnson, the NBA legend and Commanders limited partner, said on social media. "We didn't compete in the first half and got down 27-3 heading into halftime. It was too big of a hole to climb out of and that is why we ended up losing 40-20."

After the game, Rivera was asked what changes the team can make to stop the bleeding.

"We'll see," he said. "I'm not going to sit up here and talk about those things until we get an opportunity to break the tape down . . . sit down and talk with the staff and go from there."

Fierce linebacker Butkus 'was the ultimate Bear'

BUTKUS FROM **D1**

Associated Press voting for MVP three times. Butkus was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1979, his first year of eligibility, and was named to the NFL's 100th anniversary all-time roster in 2019.

"I was afraid of him, and I played with him," former Bears teammate Doug Buffone once said of Butkus, per ESPN. "I'd line up outside, look in the middle and think, 'Thank God he's on my side.' It was the same thing in practice. He took no prisoners — none. It's just the way he was, a vicious hitter but also a student of the game."

"Dick was the ultimate Bear, and one of the greatest players in NFL history," Bears chairman George H. McCaskey said in a statement Thursday. "He was Chicago's son. He exuded what our great city is about and, not coincidently, what [team founder] George Halas looked for in a player: toughness, smarts, instincts, passion and leadership. . . . His contributions to the game he loved will live forever and we are grateful he was able to be at our home opener this year to be celebrated one last time by his many fans."

After hanging up his cleats, Butkus found work as an actor and pitchman. He appeared in more than 60 films and TV shows, including a regular role in the late 1990s as a basketball coach on the high school-oriented series "Hang Time."

Born in 1942 on Chicago's South Side, Butkus excelled on the gridiron at Chicago Vocational High before heading south to attend college. Playing center and linebacker for the Illini, he became a two-time consensus all-American and helped the program to the 1963 Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl victory over Washington. Illinois retired the No. 50 jersey worn by Butkus, who finished third in the 1964 Heisman Trophy balloting.

In addition to being drafted by the Bears, Butkus was selected in the second round of the 1965 AFL draft by the Denver Broncos, who subsequently dealt his rights to the New York Jets. Given his roots, there was little debate for Butkus about which franchise he preferred to join, even though Chicago reportedly offered him less money to sign.

"I always wanted to be a Bear," he said at the time.

Butkus later said he appreciated being in "kind of a unique position" by having been able to play for his hometown team.

"I feel very lucky," he told the team's official website in 2019. "My parents got to see probably 95 percent of the games that were in Chicago, so it was good for my family, and I liked it."

In Chicago, where he famously wore No. 51, Butkus was the definition of the intimidating, hard-hitting middle linebacker. He helped turn that position into arguably the most iconic on the defensive side of the ball, following in the heralded footsteps of such players as the Green Bay Packers' Ray Nitschke, the Philadelphia Eagles' Chuck Bednarik and the Bears' own Bill George. The legacy of stellar middle linebacker play in Chicago was subsequently carried on by Mike Singletary and Brian Urlacher.

"It was a certain honor coming to the Bears to play [linebacker]," Otis Wilson, an outside linebacker who contributed to Chicago's revered 1985 defense, said in 2011. "And Dick was the one who set the example, who set the benchmark for all of us."

"Dick was an animal," former Los Angeles Rams defensive end Deacon Jones, a contemporary of Butkus's who is also regarded as an all-time great, once said. "I called him a maniac, a stone maniac. He was a well-conditioned animal, and every time he hit you, he tried to put you in the cemetery, not the hospital."

The knack for playmaking for which Butkus was renowned didn't just extend to sacking quarterbacks and tracking down ball-carriers. He also racked up 22 interceptions, often showing graceful leaps and soft hands, and his 27 fumble recoveries remain a franchise record.

Despite his individual brilliance and that of Hall of Fame teammate Gale Sayers — a multifaceted weapon on offense and special teams drafted one spot after Butkus — their squads failed to achieve much team success. During the linebacker's nine seasons, which began two years after the Bears won an NFL title, they never made the playoffs and only twice posted winning records.

If all that losing didn't help put Butkus in a malevolent frame of mind on game day, he would find something that did.

ANONYMOUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dick Butkus, who retired in 1974, was named to the NFL's 100th anniversary all-time roster in 2019.

"When I went out on the field to warm up, I would manufacture things to make me mad," he once said. "If someone on the other team was laughing, I'd pretend he was laughing at me or the Bears. I'd find something to get mad about. It always worked for me."

Butkus's NFL career was cut short by knee issues. His playing days in Chicago ended in some acrimony: He sued the Bears for breach of contract before eventually settling. That reportedly led to a few years of frostiness with Halas, but Butkus remained a fan favorite and, by the 1980s, was doing color commentary for the team.

"Dick's intuition, toughness and athleticism made him the model linebacker whose name will forever be linked to the position and the Chicago Bears," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement Thursday. "We also remember Dick as a longtime advocate for former players, and players at all levels of the game. The Dick Butkus Award and his foundation honored achievement on the field and service to the community among high school, college and NFL linebackers. Dick was a champion of clean sports as his 'I Play Clean' campaign helped raise awareness about the dangers of steroid use among high school athletes. We send our deepest condolences to the Butkus family, the Bears organization and the many fans and people he impacted throughout his life."

Butkus and his wife, Helen, had three children. A nephew, Luke Butkus, is on the Packers' staff as an offensive line coach.

NFL WEEK 5

PHOTOS BY JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

DJ Moore beats the Commanders' Kendall Fuller in the end zone for a second-quarter touchdown. The Bears wideout had eight catches for 230 yards and three touchdowns.

TAKEAWAYS

Bad start at home is too much to overcome

Coming off consecutive losses to Super Bowl contenders Buffalo and Philadelphia after a 2-0 start, the Washington Commanders fell below .500 with a defeat at the hands of the seemingly hapless Bears. Chicago ended its franchise-record 14-game losing streak, which dated back to last October, by racing out to a 27-3 lead in a dominating first half before withstanding Washington's second-half comeback bid.

The Commanders' short-week letdown came in prime time and in front of a third consecutive sellout crowd at FedEx Field. While Bears Coach Matt Eberflus entered the night with a scorching hot seat, Thursday's loss raises serious questions about the direction the Commanders are headed in five games into Coach Ron Rivera's fourth year at the helm. Washington hasn't had a winning record through five weeks since 2018.

Bears quarterback Justin Fields slides near the goal line during the first half. Fields threw for 282 yards and four touchdowns Thursday.

Defense struggles

Chicago's mediocre offense figured to be the perfect remedy for a struggling Commanders defense that had allowed at least 30 points in three consecutive games and an average of 400 yards during that span. Instead, Justin Fields led the Bears up and down the field at will in the first half. Chicago had 199 yards after one quarter, the most Washington has allowed in the first 15 minutes since 2015, and scored on all five of its first-half possessions.

Fields, who passed for 335 yards and four touchdowns in Sunday's loss to the Broncos, was impressive again. He finished 15 for 29 for 282 yards and four touchdowns, including three to D.J. Moore. Washington's defense forced three punts in the second half and sacked Fields three times, but it failed to produce a takeaway for the second straight week and allowed Khalil Herbert to rush for 76 yards in the first half.

Offense regresses

After putting up 31 points in Sunday's overtime loss to the Eagles, Washington's offense sputtered in the first half against a Chicago defense that had been allowing more than 34 points per game. The Commanders went three-and-out on their first two possessions, failed to get their running game going and had only 84 yards at halftime.

Making his first start in prime time, Sam Howell didn't exactly pick up where he left off against the Eagles. The second-year quarterback missed Dyami Brown on a deep shot that should have been a touchdown in the second quarter and threw an interception on Washington's next drive, which led to a Bears touchdown. Howell led scoring drives on three of the Commanders' first four possessions of the second half to cut the Bears' lead to 30-20 with 11 minutes to play, but Washington's early struggles were too much to overcome. Howell finished 37 for 51 for 388 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.

Moore dominates

One week after Eagles wideout A.J. Brown had nine catches for 175 yards and two touchdowns against Washington, Chicago's top target finished with eight catches for 230 yards and three scores. Moore got the Bears' offense going on the game's opening possession with a 58-yard reception that set up his 20-yard touchdown catch on third and 14. The former Maryland star had four catches for 126 yards and a touchdown in the first quarter.

Twice, Moore caught a short pass in front of rookie cornerback Emmanuel Forbes Jr. and turned it into a 30-plus-yard gain. Forbes, whom Brown picked on regularly last week, was benched in the fourth quarter. With four minutes remaining and Chicago leading by 10 and facing a third and short at its 44-yard line, Fields looked Moore's way again. Commanders cornerback Kendall Fuller went for the pass breakup, but he was too late, and Moore snatched the ball out of the air before racing 56 yards for the game-sealing touchdown.

Bears 40, Commanders 20

CHICAGO	10	17	0	13	—40
WASHINGTON	0	3	11	6	—20

FIRST QUARTER

Chicago: Moore 20 pass from Fields (Santos kick), 12:04.
Chicago: FG Santos 22, 4:18.

SECOND QUARTER

Chicago: Moore 11 pass from Fields (Santos kick), 14:15.
Washington: FG Slye 51, 8:33.
Chicago: FG Santos 36, 2:24.
Chicago: Kmet 4 pass from Fields (Santos kick), :24.

THIRD QUARTER

Washington: L.Thomas 2 pass from Howell (Howell run), 12:00.
Washington: FG Slye 32, 3:17.

FOURTH QUARTER

Chicago: FG Santos 43, 14:09.
Washington: Samuel 3 pass from Howell (pass failed), 10:51.
Chicago: Moore 56 pass from Fields (Santos kick), 4:09.
Chicago: FG Santos 37, 1:56.

	CHI	WAS
First downs	18	23
Rushing	9	1
Passing	9	21
Penalty	0	1
Third-down efficiency	7-15	6-12
Fourth-down efficiency	1-1	0-1
Total net yards	451	388
Total plays	64	66
Average gain	7.0	5.9
Net yards rushing	178	29
Rushes	32	10
Average per rush	5.6	2.9
Net yards passing	273	359
Sacked-Yards lost	3-9	5-29
Gross yards passing	282	388
Completed-Attempted	15-29	37-51
Yards per pass play	8.5	6.4
Kickoffs-End zone-TB	9-9-9	5-5-5
Punts-Average	3-43.7	2-51.5
Punts blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs blocked	0-0	0-0
Total return yardage	17	20
Interceptions	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-35	1-5
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Time of possession	30:03	29:19

PASSING

Chicago: Fields 15-29-0-282.
Washington: Howell 37-51-1-388.

RUSHING

Chicago: Herbert 10-76, Fields 11-57, Blasingame 8-26, R.Johnson 3-19.
Washington: Howell 4-19, Robinson 6-10.

RECEIVING

Chicago: Moore 8-230, Kmet 5-42, Tonyan 2-10.
Washington: Thomas 9-77, Samuel 6-65, Gibson 4-64, McLaurin 4-49, Robinson 4-33, Dotson 3-30, Crowder 2-21, Bates 2-19, Brown 1-11, Pringle 1-10, Turner 1-9.

PUNT RETURNS

Chicago: Taylor 2-17.
Washington: Crowder 1-20.

TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS

Chicago: Edwards 6-4-1, Stevenson 5-4-0, Stroman 4-3-1, Smith 3-3-0, Sanborn 3-2-0, Edmunds 2-7-0, Brisker 2-4-0, Walker 2-2-1, Ja.Jones 2-2-0, Ngakoue 2-1-1, Billings 2-0-0, Hicks 1-2-0, Green 1-0-1, Dexter 0-1-0, Ju.Jones 0-1-0, Pickens 0-1-0, Williams 0-1-0.
Washington: Forrest 6-1-0, Barton 5-3-0, Curl 4-3-0, Sweat 4-2-1.5, St-Juste 3-0-0, J.Allen 2-5-1, Davis 2-1-0, Payne 1-4-0, Ridgeway 1-2-0, Young 1-1-.5, Anderson 1-1-0, Fuller 1-1-0, Forbes 1-0-0, Johnson 1-0-0, Smith-Williams 0-2-0, Butler 0-1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS

Chicago: Stroman 1-0.
Washington: None.

MISSED FIELD GOALS

Washington: Slye 46.

SCHEDULE

Week 1
at Commanders 20, Cardinals 16

Week 2
Commanders 35, at Broncos 33

Week 3
Bills 37, at Commanders 3

Week 4
at Eagles 34, Commanders 31 (OT)

Week 5 vs. Bears
Bears 40, at Commanders 20

Week 6 at Falcons
Oct. 15, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Week 7 at Giants
Oct. 22, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Week 8 vs. Eagles
Oct. 29, 1 p.m. (Fox)

Week 9 at Patriots
Nov. 5, 1 p.m. (Fox)

Week 10 at Seahawks
Nov. 12, 4:25 p.m. (Fox)

Week 11 vs. Giants
Nov. 19, 1 p.m. (Fox)

Week 12 at Cowboys
Nov. 23 (Thurs.), 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

Week 13 vs. Dolphins
Dec. 3, 1 p.m. (Fox)

Week 14
Bye

Week 15 at Rams
Dec. 17, 4:05 p.m. (CBS)

Week 16 at Jets
Dec. 24, 1 p.m. (CBS)

Week 17 vs. 49ers
Dec. 31, 1 p.m. (Fox)

Week 18 vs. Cowboys
Jan. 6/7; date, time and TV TBD

Bears' drives

	Time received	How ball obtained	Drive began	Number of plays	Net yards	Last snap	Drive result
1	15:00	Kickoff	CHI 25	6	75	WAS 20	Touchdown
2	9:51	Punt	CHI 26	11	70	WAS 4	Field goal
3	1:52	Punt	CHI 31	6	69	WAS 11	Touchdown
4	8:33	Kickoff	CHI 25	13	57	WAS 18	Field goal
5	2:19	Interception	WAS 36	6	36	WAS 4	Touchdown
6	12:00	Kickoff	CHI 25	5	20	CHI 45	Punt
7	8:44	Fumble	WAS 46	3	-10	CHI 44	Punt
8	3:17	Kickoff	CHI 25	8	50	WAS 25	Field goal
9	10:51	Kickoff	CHI 25	3	8	CHI 33	Punt
10	5:11	Missed FG	CHI 36	3	64	CHI 44	Touchdown
11	2:30	Downs	WAS 26	4	7	WAS 19	Field goal

Commanders' drives

	Time received	How ball obtained	Drive began	Number of plays	Net yards	Last snap	Drive result
1	12:04	Kickoff	WAS 25	3	8	WAS 33	Punt
2	4:18	Kickoff	WAS 25	3	-1	WAS 24	Punt
3	14:15	Kickoff	WAS 25	11	42	CHI 33	Field goal
4	2:24	Kickoff	WAS 25	1	0	WAS 25	Interception
5	0:24	Kickoff	WAS 25	4	35	WAS 36	End of half
6	15:00	Kickoff	WAS 25	5	75	CHI 2	Touchdown
7	9:32	Punt	WAS 30	2	15	WAS 37	Fumble
8	7:40	Punt	WAS 17	7	70	CHI 13	Field goal
9	14:09	Kickoff	WAS 25	12	75	CHI 3	Touchdown
10	9:13	Punt	WAS 20	11	52	CHI 28	Missed FG
11	4:09	Kickoff	WAS 25	4	1	WAS 17	Downs
12	1:56	Kickoff	WAS 25	6	41	CHI 43	End of game

Players on the fringe get a final shot in Caps' preseason victory at Columbus

CAPITALS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

BY BAILEY JOHNSON

In their penultimate preseason game, the final audition for players battling for a roster spot, the Washington Capitals beat the Columbus Blue Jackets, 4-2, at Nationwide Arena on Thursday night in Columbus, Ohio.

Beck Malenstyn and Aliaksei Protas scored in the first period — which Washington dominated, outshooting Columbus 17-5. Brendan Gaunce got the Blue Jackets on the board early in the second, but the Capitals extended their lead on a shorthanded goal by Riley Sutter with just over five minutes left in the game.

Hendrix Lapierre made it 4-1 with an empty-net goal at 17:51 before Columbus defenseman Marcus Bjork scored the final goal a minute later. Capitals goaltender Charlie Lindgren, making his second preseason start, made 20 saves on 22 shots.

Here are three takeaways from the Capitals' win:

Final opportunity

Capitals Coach Spencer Carbery intends to use Saturday's preseason finale — another matchup with the Blue Jackets, this time at Capital One Arena — as a dress rehearsal for the opening night lineup, so Thursday's game was the last chance for players on the fringes of the roster to state their case. Malenstyn appears to have his spot locked up, but scoring will only help his cause, in addition to his strong work on the penalty kill and as a forechecker.

While Protas had been fairly quiet in his previous three preseason games, he took a step forward Thursday. Beyond the goal, he looked more comfortable in the third-line center role than he did in the opportunities he got higher in the lineup earlier in training camp. His ability to play all three forward spots helps; versatility is key for a depth forward.

On defense, Hardy Haman Aktell, Lucas Johansen and Alex Alexeyev are the leading competitors for the ice time created by Joel Edmundson's injury. Haman Aktell has improved in each game and looks like a lock to make the team. That leaves Johansen and Alexeyev battling, and Alexeyev appeared to gain the edge Thursday.

Alexeyev was on the ice for a team-high 23:12 — nearly five minutes more than Johansen (18:30) — and skated alongside Nick Jensen to form the Capitals' top defensive pair. It wasn't a seamless night for Alexeyev and Jensen, but their usage indicates that, in the eyes of the coaching staff, Alexeyev had earned a chance to play heavier minutes in a more demanding role.

McMichael stays confident

Connor McMichael scored and had 10 shots on goal in his previous preseason game, demonstrating the confidence he has played with throughout training camp. His reward for that performance was a move from left wing to his natural position: He was the Capitals' second-line center Thursday, skating between Anthony Mantha and Matthew Phillips.

Carbery hinted Thursday morning that the move was to gather data for the possibility of McMichael playing center on occasion — another sign that he has all but secured a roster spot.

Against the Blue Jackets, McMichael won 11 of 14 faceoffs and had four shot attempts in 15:28. He wasn't as active offensively as he was in Tuesday's overtime win at Boston — it's hard to match 10 shots on goal — but he still looked poised and confident with the puck.

"It's all those little details," McMichael said Thursday morning. "Talking to guys like [center] Nic Dowd, he's been a big helper for me. Just working on, like, you have to win faceoffs in the NHL. It's all these little things that you have to do. Not going to go out there every night and score two goals like maybe [Alex Ovechkin] does, but it's just little things."

Mantha remains snakebit

It's unusual for a veteran to play more than two or three preseason games, but Thursday's was Mantha's fourth. After a slow start in his first two games, he played a more active game Tuesday, but he hit the post twice on open looks to score.

"I thought his last game was his best I've seen from him," Carbery said Thursday morning. "I know he's probably extremely frustrated that nothing goes in for him. He hits the crossbar, hits the post on the one at the end of the game. Just feels like a lot of bad puck luck for him right now, but that process for him last game is exactly what we need from him."

Mantha skated 16:07 against the Blue Jackets and had four shot attempts, though three missed the net. His play didn't quite match the level of engagement he displayed Tuesday, and it was reflected in the quality of his scoring chances. He didn't force Columbus goaltender Spencer Martin to make a save on one of his shots until the latter half of the third period.

Preseason: Blue Jackets at Capitals
Tomorrow, 7 p.m., Monumental

Brady's deal to become part-owner of Raiders is stalled over a price discount

BY MARK MASKE AND NICKI JHABVALA

The NFL's approval process for Tom Brady's proposed deal to purchase a minority ownership stake in the Las Vegas Raiders has stalled, at least in part because of concerns by the league's finance committee about the discounted price Raiders principal owner Mark Davis is offering Brady, according to three people familiar with the deliberations over the prospective transaction.

While there is support among some league leaders and the finance committee for Davis's effort to sell a portion of the Raiders to Brady, the deal would be unlikely to be ratified at the proposed price, one of those people said.

It is not clear whether Davis and Brady, the seven-time Super Bowl winning quarterback for the New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers who announced his retirement as an NFL player in February, will revise the deal to address the concerns and allow Brady to enter NFL ownership.

A second person with knowledge of the deliberations said approval of the deal is hung up over several issues, including the discounted price. Those two people and a third person familiar with the process said that, barring a last-minute change, NFL team owners are not expected to ratify Brady's deal to become a Raiders part-owner at their meeting scheduled for Oct. 17-18 in New York.

Any sale of ownership of an NFL franchise, even a minority stake, must be ratified by at least 24 of the 32 owners. The owners generally follow the recommendation of the seven-owner finance committee. There is strong sentiment within the finance committee that the deal "can't happen at that price" and will not be approved without modifications, one of the people with knowledge of the deliberations said.

Even so, finance committee members and some league leaders generally "want this deal to go through" and believe that "maybe there's a compromise" to be reached on the price issue, that person said.

The precise terms of Brady's proposed purchase are not known. The Raiders are worth an estimated $6.2 billion, according to Forbes's NFL team valuations released in August. In July, the owners approved the sale of the Washington Commanders from Daniel Snyder to a group led by private equity investor Josh Harris for an NFL-record $6.05 billion.

It is believed that Davis is selling Brady between 5 and 10 percent of the Raiders. Minority shares of a sports franchise generally are sold at a discount from the applicable percentage of the team's full value, given that limited partners in the franchise usually have little to no say over major operational decisions. But in this case, Davis may be giving Brady a discount of as much as approximately 70 percent, one of the people with knowledge of the deliberations said.

Neither Davis nor the Raiders immediately responded to requests for comment, and Brady was not available to comment. The NFL declined to comment.

Forbes estimated in February that Brady earned more than $530 million from playing contracts and off-field business ventures during his 23 NFL seasons. Brady, who turned 46 in August, has lined up a deal with Fox reportedly worth $375 million over 10 years to join the network's NFL broadcast booth. He has said that he plans to join Fox next season. His discussions about purchasing an ownership stake in the Raiders were confirmed in May by a person familiar with the talks.

The WNBA this week approved Brady's deal to acquire an ownership stake in the Las Vegas Aces, another franchise Davis owns. Brady and Davis announced that deal in March.

Brady is the NFL's career leader in passing yards and touchdown passes, among many other categories. He was a three-time league MVP and a five-time Super Bowl MVP. He announced his retirement as a player in a video posted Feb. 1 to social media. Brady said his retirement was "for good" this time after he retired, changed his mind and returned to play for the Buccaneers last season.

The issues the finance committee raised appear likely to prolong the approval process but don't necessarily guarantee that the deal will be scrapped.

In the Commanders sale, the finance committee initially raised concerns about the structure of Harris's deal, believing it to be above the NFL's $1.1 billion debt limit for franchise acquisitions. Harris agreed to make the necessary adjustments, and the deal eventually received a unanimous recommendation by the committee, leading to a unanimous ratification vote by the owners July 20 in Bloomington, Minn.

Another possible issue in Brady's purchase is related to a measure the owners ratified in July. They voted then to prohibit team employees who are not family members of the owner from being given ownership stakes in franchises, according to the Sports Business Journal. So Brady's purchase of an ownership stake in the Raiders would prevent him from returning to play or taking another official position within the organization.

Brady's pending Fox deal could be an additional concern to some of those involved in the approval process. If Brady's purchase is not ratified at this month's owners' meeting and he and Davis continue to pursue the deal, the next opportunity for approval probably would come at the owners' meeting scheduled for Dec. 12-13 in Irving, Tex.

Nationals target minor league staff as their organizational shake-up continues

BY ANDREW GOLDEN

At least eight more members of the Washington Nationals' player development staff won't return next season as the club continues its departmental overhaul, multiple people familiar with the situation told The Washington Post.

The decisions follow the departure of De Jon Watson, who had served as Washington's director of player development but was told this week that he wouldn't return. It remains unclear who will replace Watson.

Notably, four of the departures were on the minor league hitting side: hitting coordinator Joe Dillon, lower level hitting coordinator Troy Gingrich, high Class A Wilmington hitting coach Micah Franklin and Class AA Harrisburg hitting coach Tim Doherty.

Infield coordinator Cody Ransom, outfield and base-running coordinator Coco Crisp, lower level pitching coordinator Michael Tejera, and rehab and Dominican Republic pitching coordinator Mark Grater also won't return next season.

A Nationals spokeswoman declined to comment, citing a team policy not to publicly discuss personnel. General Manager Mike Rizzo declined to comment on specific personnel matters. But he did say in a text message that every vacancy in the player development department would be filled.

Letting go Dillon and Gingrich, as well as two coaches at affiliates, signals a desire to improve Washington's hitting staff as a handful of young prospects inches closer to the majors. A shift in hitting philosophy with a new staff could prove beneficial, though it's also risky.

A review of high Class A and Class AA numbers shows that change might have been warranted. Wilmington and Harrisburg ranked last in their respective leagues in runs, home runs and slugging percentage.

This season, the Class AA Harrisburg Senators had two players acquired in the Juan Soto trade (James Wood and Robert Hassell III), three of the Nationals' 2023 draft picks (No. 2 pick Dylan Crews, second-round pick Yohandy Morales and Andrew Pinckney, who went in the fourth round), 2021 first-round pick Brady House and 2022 third-round pick Trey Lipscomb, whose performance stood out. But some of the team's top prospects at that level struggled with strikeouts. Wood struck out 124 times in 368 plate appearances with Harrisburg. Hassell, known for his contact skills, struck out 152 times in 476 plate appearances. House struck out 42 times in 148 plate appearances.

The Nationals expanded their player development staff ahead of the 2022 season, and Watson was tasked with melding the existing personnel with outside hires. Gingrich, Grater and Tejera were with the organization before Watson was promoted to farm director. Dillon had served as the Nationals' assistant hitting coach in 2018 and 2019, then was hired back as Watson reshaped the staff. Gingrich joined the organization as a hitting coach in 2004 before the team moved from Montreal. Tejera arrived as a pitching coach in 2011.

The Nationals did not have a lower level coordinator for hitting or pitching before 2022, but after Rizzo tasked Watson with running player development, the staff expanded.

In the past two months, Johnny DiPuglia — the team's international scouting director since 2009 and one of Rizzo's closest confidants — resigned. Kris Kline, the longtime amateur scouting director, was moved into a new special assistant role in scouting. And a dozen members of the scouting department were informed their contracts wouldn't be renewed.

CANDACE BUCKNER

We know all too well this will end badly for Kelce

BUCKNER FROM D1

off into happily-ever-after, in his vintage drop-top convertible, as the NFL social media team shamelessly changes its X (formerly known as Twitter) profile pic to the "Traylor" wedding photo. Anything less than fulfilling a fantasy that's snuggled by an adoring fan base and sensationalized by an abetting media, and Kelce will regret ever aiming for the A-list.

There's nothing wrong with crossover couples. Football players and pop princesses can fall in and out of love all they want. And it's okay that a powerful woman is getting so much attention in a man's sport. Ciara and Russell Wilson are still going strong, three kids and counting. Dating Jessica Simpson for two years didn't make Tony Romo throw more interceptions. Though we're still trying to uncover the mystery of which Minnesota Vikings player slid into Lizzo's DMs, hopefully he's living his best life now.

Swift, however, is different. Hers is an all-consuming fame. She wears rhinestone shorts one night, and they sell out the next. Her influence is both powerful and terrifying. She once brought Apple to its knees with a single Tumblr post. Her fans are not just fans but a devoted legion of acolytes. "Swifties" see her as their avatar for female expression and empowerment, their protagonist who must be protected at all times, their most idealized self-image.

Poor, poor Kelce. The football player doesn't comprehend the potent forces he has unleashed.

Yeah, the sugar high of linking up with a global superstar feels great now: selling more jerseys, surpassing a million podcast subscribers, being followed by paparazzi. And, okay, finding a new love or whatever. Pardon me for side-eyeing the sincerity of a man who once starred in a reality dating competition and now appears in more commercials than all the Mannings combined — and a woman who has a movie coming out.

If only I could join everyone else who seems to be falling for a love story that feels more like the invention of highly paid publicists. All those "multiple sources" teasing new scoops and the NBC "Sunday Night Football" camera operators zooming in on the suite, they're having so much fun with Tay Tay and Travis. And garnering so much attention.

Ahead of the Chiefs-Jets telecast, which hauled in a whopping 27 million viewers, NBC pandered to its new demographic and had Carson Daly, host of "The Voice," dumb down the sport to the point of being offensive. (*Hey, Swifties! So this is a foot-ball. Or what they call a pigskin. It's not really made of pigs or anything. We just like nicknames!)*

Though even Kelce believes the league is "overdoing it," the NFL is smart to keep milking the Swift impact. Judging by all the articles written over the past few weeks, surely my comrades in media wouldn't mind if Swift one day falls in love with a newspaper publisher. (*Hey, Swifties! So this is a news-paper. A tree had to die for us to bring you this hard-hitting journalism. Please keep us in business by subscribing here!)*

But with popularity, there comes a price. Then, the backlash.

In 2018, actress Justine Bateman released a book about Fame. That's how she refers to it, always with a capital "F." And back in the '80s, when family sitcoms ruled the tube, Bateman had F A M E. (You think 27 million viewers for a football game is a lot? That's nothing compared with the 36.3 million who watched the series finale of her show "Family Ties.") As Bateman reflected on her young adulthood as an A-lister, she came to think of Fame as a sheath, something the public sees rather than the person behind it.

"Fame. This thing that came upon me. I didn't have it and then it was on me," Bateman writes in "Fame: The Hijacking of Reality."

"I was without it, nowhere near it, not cultivating it, not looking for it, knew no one who had it, just unfamiliar with it, and then it was on me, enveloping me, encasing me in a sheath that I could look out and see the world as I knew it before the Fame happened, but a sheath that now obscured anyone's vision of me."

Kelce's fame sheath looks more like a scarf, maybe the one left at Jake Gyllenhaal's sister's house.

With almost sweet naiveté, Kelce thinks NFL telecasts shouldn't focus on celebrities because "you just don't want to be on TV at all time." And on his podcast, Kelce claims he will stick to talking about sports because he wants to "respect" both his and Swift's personal lives. Kelce doesn't seem to understand, however, that his personal life is no longer his own. All because of the fame.

But that's the least of his concerns. Just wait until "Traylor" breaks up.

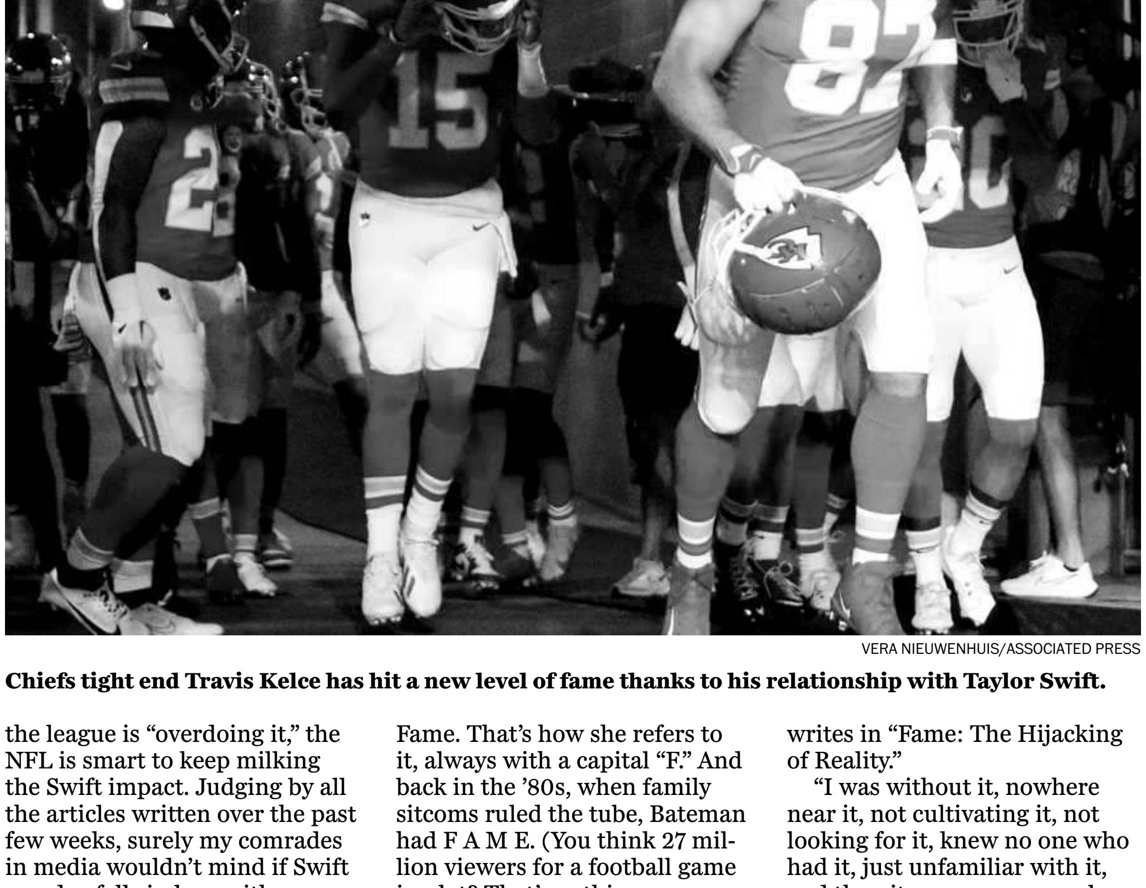
Kelce will become a lyric for Swifties to decipher like forensic scientists, in a needlessly long song in which his former girlfriend finds a way to make *the girl in the dress, cried the whole way home* rhyme with *end zone.*

He will land as a blurb on entertainment sites that will identify him merely as an "ex." Search engines will diminish his own achievements in favor of his dating history — Joe Alwyn knows what's up.

He will never again be just one of the best tight ends in NFL history and a winner of two Super Bowls. The sheath will make him almost unrecognizable.

By gambling his own worth as a famous football player to further his pursuit of global clout, Kelce will end up with more fame than he bargained for and an identity that wipes out everything he was before Taylor.

His only way out is to propose to Swift — just as soon as NBC cuts to another shot of the MetLife Stadium suite. But maybe for the Swifties, the media and the professional football league that once cared about football, even that won't be enough. The Fame, capital letter "F," is coming, and Kelce is about to be trampled.



VERA NIEUWENHUIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce has hit a new level of fame thanks to his relationship with Taylor Swift.

WORLD GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

With bronze, Richard becomes fourth U.S. man to medal in the all-around

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

NAOMI BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Fred Richard, right, is joined by gold medalist Daiki Hashimoto, center, and silver medalist Illia Kovtun on the podium in Belgium.

ANTWERP, BELGIUM — The medal seemed to slip away the moment Fred Richard couldn't hold on to the high bar. In the final rotation of the men's all-around final Thursday at the gymnastics world championships, the 19-year-old American believed he needed to stay on the apparatus to have a chance of making the podium — and he didn't. He thought his medal vanished as soon as he hit the ground.

But after Richard's disappointing end, three other top contenders awaited their final performances. They faced a similar task — hit a high-stakes routine with a medal at stake. Japan's Daiki Hashimoto, the reigning world and Olympic champion, cruised through his high bar set to secure another title, pushing Richard into third behind Illia Kovtun of Ukraine. But then the other two competitors — China's Sun Wei on pommel horse and Japan's Kenta Chiba on high bar — fell amid the pressure.

When Chiba's score was revealed, it fell well short of the mark required for a medal. That gave Richard the bronze with a score of 84.332, making him the first American man to medal in an all-around competition at the world championships or the Olympics since 2012. Richard fist-pumped with both arms as he stepped onto the podium, beaming with joy that seemed improbable before. As he left the competition floor, he tossed the stuffed mascot he received with his medal to his mother in the stands.

"The universe has a weird way of doing things," he said. "So I think it wanted me to be happy with all the work I did this year and have this medal to show it. But it knew that I was going to go back to the gym and work super hard to not be in that situation again."

Hashimoto clinched another gold with an 86.132. Kovtun (84.998) finished on pommel horse and kept his poise on his way to the silver medal.

For Richard, who was competing at his first world championships, his milestone followed another breakthrough bronze for the U.S. men in Tuesday's team competition, which ended a medal drought that had lasted nearly a decade. With that podium finish at stake, Richard hit his high bar set as the final athlete to perform, clinching the medal. He didn't have the same strong finish Thursday, but it turned out to be enough.

Richard initially felt he didn't deserve the medal, but his mindset quickly shifted.

"Those other guys that also fell . . . they had to deal with the same thing as me," he said. "Didn't perform as well also under pressure. But I ended up the third-best performer of the day."

The U.S. men's gymnastics team has struggled to produce marquee moments lately. The Americans are often outshined by Japan, China and Russia, the perennial powers of the sport. But here in Belgium, the United States is finally getting to celebrate on the podium.

Richard became the fourth U.S. gymnast to medal in the men's all-around competition at the world championships, joining Paul Hamm (gold in 2003), Kurt Thomas (silver in 1979) and Jonathan Horton (bronze in 2010).

"I think I definitely belonged," Richard said. "And I'm happy that it showed now. My coaches tell me [it's] one thing just being good at gymnastics, but when you're competing, it's all about who has the right sets that they can handle. And that's what I felt like: I had these perfect sets built for me in this competition."

Chiba had the top qualifying score, but in the final he took a large step back to avoid falling on vault. He could have overcome those errors if not for his most significant mistake in the meet's final moments. Instead, Chiba (83.464) finished nearly a full point behind Richard.

Richard, meanwhile, had an excellent evening, beginning on floor, where he earned a 14.633 — the highest mark of the competition on that apparatus. He stuck his 2½-twisting vault for the third-best score. After reaching the final event in second place, Richard finally had a major lapse, but he still delivered what he described as "probably one of the cleanest high bar finishes I've ever done."

Biles is known for difficult routines, but pristine execution helps her stand apart

BILES FROM **D1**

NAOMI BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

The sum of Simone Biles's execution scores on each apparatus was the highest in the field this week.

athletes an advantage before the competition begins — nobody more so than Biles — but that's just part of the equation. The execution component of each score reflects how well the athlete performs: her technique and precision, no matter the complexity of the routine.

And Biles usually shines in this area, too. It's perhaps the underrated hallmark of her career. Her innovative elements steal the spotlight, but Biles rarely makes mistakes, and her fundamentals are pristine. She had an excellent showing during qualifying, and the sum of her execution scores on each apparatus was higher than every other athlete in the field — all gymnasts performing simpler routines.

Biles's four routines earlier this week combined to earn a score of 33.965 in execution — a tiny margin ahead of Jones (33.932). Biles repeated the strong showing during Wednesday's team final with an even higher mark (34.432) but a slightly lower all-around total because she didn't perform her full repertoire of challenging skills.

For Biles, this has become the typical script — enormous difficulty with clean execution — and *both* have powered her rise, not just the stunning skills that no others have mastered. While Biles doesn't always have the best overall execution, she usually lands near the top. Her difficulty provides a buffer that would soften the blow of errors, but she often doesn't need it, a testament to her preparation.

"She doesn't take mediocre work," coach Cecile Landi said. "She pushes herself to be better every time."

That could soon lead to another world title, just as it has so often in the past. If Biles finishes on the podium in the all-around, she will receive her 34th world championships or Olympic medal and become the most decorated gymnast, male or female, in history — surpassing the previous record of Vitaly Scherbo, who represented the Soviet Union, the Unified Russian team and Belarus in the 1990s.

The open-ended scoring system, which was introduced in 2006 and includes marks for difficulty and execution, encourages innovation. Still, gymnasts can lean on their strengths. While Germany's Pauline Schaefer-Betz had the lowest difficulty score among the qualifiers for the all-around final, her execution was the fourth best, behind only that of Biles, Jones and Gadirova. However, difficulty usually determines who is in serious medal contention because, for those with simpler routines, finishing on the podium depends on mistakes by others who entered with an advantage.

One of Biles's largest deductions on the opening day of competition was because her coach stood on the mat for safety as she performed her difficult Yurchenko double pike vault. A controversial rule prescribes a half-point deduction, even though Biles's coach doesn't touch her as she flies through the air. That loss does not factor into the execution component of a score but rather falls into its own category known as neutral deductions, which also includes mistakes such as going out of bounds or not finishing a routine in the allotted time.

If these neutral deductions are subtracted from each gymnast's all-around execution scores, Biles had the fourth-highest qualifying mark. Biles didn't perform this vault, now known as the Biles II, during the team final. She instead chose the Cheng, which has a 5.6 difficulty score — much lower than the 6.4 of the Yurchenko double pike. But the difference is not as stark when the half-point neutral deduction is factored in.

Biles's coach Laurent Landi said whether she performs her most difficult vault and he stands on the mat are daily decisions, so it's not clear which element she will rely on in her final performances here.

Among the field of gymnasts who qualified for the all-around final, Biles had the top marks for difficulty on vault (6.4), beam (6.3, tied with China's Ou Yushan) and floor (6.7). These scores can fluctuate a bit depending on whether the judges award credit for each element and connection.

On bars, Biles's weakest event, she performed an efficient routine and earned an 8.400 for execution during the qualifying round. Others had a more impressive array of skills, but Biles tied for the second-highest execution score. Her execution is critical to her ability to keep pace with other top contenders who have an edge in difficulty score.

But on each of the other apparatuses, Biles surges ahead of her peers. She has won gold medals at previous world championships on vault, beam and floor — and few others can come close to her highest scores, so she enters every all-around competition as the heavy favorite. For more than a decade, her dominance, which always starts with her difficult routines, has been complemented by superb execution and ultimately rewarded with a gold medal.

New breed of specialists is making kicking cool

KICKERS FROM **D1**

AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

O'Connell's Tyler Fontenot (9), who also punts, said he has hit a field goal from 67 yards in practice.

became indisputably evident when he slipped into his kicking routine, walked three steps back and two paces to his left, shimmied his shoulders, checked a flag for wind and pondered a dozen other pre-kick adjustments.

The football field was occupied for the afternoon, which meant Fontenot needed to find a spot somewhere on the Knights' baseball field to aim the ball. His choice: a vertical bar at the center of the backstop, less than a foot wide and about 50 yards away.

He missed it by six inches.

Still, it wasn't quite his reputation — or the *thwack* off his right foot — that made it permissible to stop and gawk in the middle of practice.

It was his charisma — the kind that, in 2023, contrary to popular perception, most of the top high school specialists seem to have and that, for a mentally taxing position, is essential to execution.

"There's a sense there's this stigma," said Brian Johnson, the former Gonzaga High and Washington Football Team kicker. "I never really got that."

"The idea that you're an outcast, that was back in the day," local kicking coach Desi Cullen said. "The teams I work with, they value a kicker way more than they did 25 years ago."

For two hours on the Arlington campus, Fontenot seems to rewrite the archetype (one perhaps stoked by a 1997 Adam Sandler parody song titled "The Lonesome Kicker"). During breaks at practice, a spot next to the specialist was a popular place to chill. When he talked, his teammates listened. Across the field, one player called the Yale commit *T-sizzle*. At one point, he stopped a few teammates and asked them to brainstorm a celebratory field goal handshake.

As others tried to compliment him, Fontenot insisted the praise belonged to his long snapper, holder, returner and linemen, who he said make up the best unit in the area.

The magnetism of Fontenot and other specialists around the D.C. area also contradicts the bleak nature their presence on the field can represent. Often, when the special teams unit takes the field, it means the offense has wilted. At the high school level, it can mean a coach has resisted his aggressive instincts.

Many coaches, such as Bishop O'Connell's Todd Sabatino, love the rush of a fourth-down play call.

But they like winning more.

"We want to go for it, and now we can't," the Knights' first-year coach said. "He's too good."

This fall, Sabatino is not alone in his line of thinking. Many coaches have arrived at a similar conclusion about specialists in 2023: They're better — and more integral to team culture — than ever before. Most teams don't employ special teams coordinators, and most head coaches can't help much with technique, but they're ready to empower the position.

Ten times better

It's cool to be a kicker these days.

Bishop Ireton junior Aiden Gray, regarded as one of the area's top kickers, said it took only a few 35-yarders during a freshman-year physical education class before some guys begged him to join the team. Fontenot, who began kicking out of boredom during the coronavirus pandemic, had a similar experience his freshman year. Johnson, who kicked at Gonzaga from 2012 to 2015 and in the NFL two years ago, said teammates on the freshman football team were dumbfounded when he connected on a 40-yard field goal in a game.

Some initial level of success and some dazzle of personality are vital to life as a specialist. In part, the position's outcast reputation, several local coaches said, came from a time when the kickers and punters weren't very good and the average culture of a high school football team was a bit more hostile.

"Giving them confidence is everything," Good Counsel special teams coordinator Ned Ahnell said. "I think we're products of our environment, right? That atmosphere [of having outcasts] is not something we have here. But I could see that being the case at a program where kicking is thought of as a necessary evil."

It helps, coaches said, that the position draws athletes with the right set of tools: They almost all come with a soccer background (often at striker); they are almost all obsessive and competitive; and they are, contrary to perception, legitimate athletes.

That mix has helped specialists assimilate. Johnson described himself as an extrovert. Fontenot, who transferred from McLean, caught teammates' attention at one of his first practices when he attempted to hurdle another player. Gray competes alongside offensive and defensive players in sprints, and they all work out alongside their teammates in the weight room.

More and more, coaches seem to identify and value those athletes early, said Cullen, who has worked with hundreds of kickers and punters over the past decade. He said their athleticism, in conjunction with their commitment to the craft, has raised the average specialist's ceiling and floor.

"The level of where high school kicking is today," Cullen said, "is 10 times better than it was 10 years ago."

Just a decade ago, Cullen said, the average senior he trained would send the ball to the 10-yard line on kickoffs. Now they put it in the end zone.

That can be a significant advantage. For slow-moving offenses and pass-avoidant play callers, many local coaches purport the most reliable home run play is a punt or kickoff return. And for teams that want to get tricky, a top specialist leaves an opponent more prone to conceding fake punts or field goals.

Last year, the Knights ran five successful fakes with Fontenot in the game.

"It's a huge energy boost when those work," said Nguyen, O'Connell's quarterback. "And they're easier now."

The 'specialist circle'

Washington Commanders punter Tress Way admits to stealing tricks from other NFL punters. In part, Fontenot and his contemporaries are better than the previous crop of high school kickers because they do the same.

Perhaps Fontenot's most valuable asset, outside of his personal kicking coach, is a group chat with more than 40 of the country's top kickers and punters. Specialists, Fontenot said, often find they are like-minded and willing to help one another.

"It's funny: Every coach in the country knows there's this little specialist circle," Fontenot said. "Fifty of my best friends in the world live in different states. We all just kind of bounce ideas off each other. That's how we all get better."

Johnson, with his high school career in the rearview, sees groups such as these as essential to the position's evolution. He believes the proliferation of social media — and ensuing posts from specialists — helps kickers adjust their technique before paying for coaching.

"I see all these kids on Twitter booting the ball, and technique looks a lot better than kids when I played, and honestly, I think coaches and players can get themselves out there a little more," Johnson said. "Nowadays, it's a lot easier to find people [who can help you]."

The reasons don't stop there. Johnson sees more parents willing to shell out the hundreds of dollars per lesson that position coaches charge. The availability of film, several other coaches reckoned, has helped the special teams unit as a whole evolve.

Throughout the week, Fontenot watches film of the opponent's special teams. Depending on a returner's ability and preference in direction, he will adjust the hang time, length and direction of his punts. Or maybe there's a hole where he can put an onside kick, which will prompt a late-night text to a coach. During down moments in practice, he will find a teammate and pick his brain about coverages. On game day, he will tell blockers and returners where to stand on a kickoff.

Needless to say, this is still high school football, which means no matter how much work he puts in, there's still a little razzing that comes with his position. At Bishop Ireton, Gray compares it to being a goalie — because no one really knows what he's doing, they tell him they can do it better. At Fontenot's practice, a teammate jokingly spouts off that he could, too.

But these days, that's just about as bad as a specialist will get it. And to have that relationship with teammates, to Fontenot, is just as important as any technical adjustment when he's looking to connect on a 60-yarder — which he would like to show, with ease, surrounded by smiling teammates at this mid-September practice, where he and the Knights are not relegated to the baseball field.

"The whole kicking and punting game is mental," Fontenot said. "To have these guys around me means everything."

After their public spat, Berhalter speaks with Reyna, adds him for friendlies

U.S. coach, midfielder settle differences enough to work together again

BY STEVEN GOFF

It has been close to a year since Gio Reyna, the young U.S. soccer star, and Gregg Berhalter, coach of the U.S. men's national team, had a falling out at the World Cup in Qatar.

But when the U.S. squad gathers in Nashville next week for training camp, Reyna and Berhalter will stand side by side for the first time since one of American soccer's ugliest episodes — one that spilled into the public and led to an investigation of events from 30 years ago.

On Thursday, Berhalter announced his 23-man roster for friendlies against Germany and Ghana. And Reyna was on it.

The 20-year-old midfielder has played for the U.S. team since the World Cup but under interim coaches while the U.S. Soccer Federation weighed whether to rehire Berhalter, whose contract expired Dec. 31.

Berhalter began his second tenure last month without Reyna, who was injured. Back on active duty for German club Borussia Dortmund, Reyna was available for this camp. The question was whether the player and coach had settled their differences enough to work together.

Berhalter said they spoke via Zoom a few weeks ago.

"The conversation was positive," Berhalter said in a call with reporters. "I was really just appreciative of the conversation. Acknowledging that, I think it will take time. There is a difference between a Zoom call and being in person, but both intentions are positive. And the idea is we work together for the team to be successful, and I think we're both prepared to do that."

Reyna has not commented on the situation. He is scheduled to report to camp after Dortmund's match against Union Berlin on Saturday.

The spat with Berhalter began in Qatar, where Reyna played sparingly. At the time, Berhalter did not provide specific reasons. At a private event a few days after the U.S. team was eliminated, Berhalter said, without naming Reyna, that one player was almost sent home from the World Cup.

When the transcript was made public, Reyna's parents fumed. Behind the scenes, Danielle Reyna, his mother, told the USSF that Berhalter had abused his now-wife, Rosalind, when they were students at the University of North Carolina. Without naming the Reynas, Berhalter said publicly that he was being blackmailed.

Berhalter and Claudio Reyna, Gio's father, had been close friends and teammates since they were young. Danielle and Rosalind Berhalter also had a longstanding friendship.

The USSF launched an investigation of the abuse case and the behavior of the Reyna parents. A subsequent report found Berhalter had not done anything that would prevent him from remaining a candidate for the coaching job. He was rehired in June.

Before the September camp, Berhalter said he had yet to clear the air with Reyna. Last week, however, Matt Crocker, the USSF's sporting director, said the two had finally spoken and Reyna was on course to join the squad for these friendlies.

The U.S. team will train in Nashville all next week; travel to East Hartford, Conn., ahead of the Oct. 14 friendly against Germany; then return to Tennessee for the Oct. 17 match against Ghana.

Because of injuries, Reyna has not played a minute for his club or country since the Concacaf Nations League final against Canada on June 18. He has, though, been in uniform for Dortmund the past two Bundesliga and two UEFA Champions League matches.

"How many minutes can we give him on the field that he can build up in a safe way and then go back to Dortmund and really propel him to make a big impact for his club?" Berhalter said. "So we're going to be creative with the minutes. We want to certainly get him on the field."

Reyna was among 13 players from the World Cup squad named to this month's roster. Others include Christian Pulisic, Weston McKennie and Tim Weah.

Nineteen players from last month's friendlies against Uzbekistan and Oman were recalled, including forwards Folarin Balogun and Ricardo Pepi.

Kristoffer Lund, a Danish American left back who last month received his first call-up, was invited back. So was Kevin Paredes, the former D.C. United homegrown winger from South Riding. He made his senior debut against Oman.

Lennard Maloney, a German American defensive midfielder who starts for Heidenheim in the Bundesliga, is the only first-time call-up. He has played for both German and U.S. youth national teams.

Injuries continue to sideline World Cup captain Tyler Adams and forward Josh Sargent. In addition, Antonee Robinson, the stalwart left back, was left out because of a possible hernia, and center back Mark McKenzie fractured a toe.

U.S. men's national soccer team roster

Goalkeepers: Ethan Horvath (Nottingham Forest), Matt Turner (Nottingham Forest).

Defenders: Cameron Carter-Vickers (Celtic), Sergiño Dest (PSV Eindhoven), DeJuan Jones (New England Revolution), Kristoffer Lund (Palermo), Tim Ream (Fulham), Chris Richards (Crystal Palace), Miles Robinson (Atlanta United), Joe Scally (Mönchengladbach).

Midfielders: Johnny Cardoso (Internacional), Luca de la Torre (Celta Vigo), Lennard Maloney (Heidenheim), Weston McKennie (Juventus), Yunus Musah (AC Milan), Gio Reyna (Borussia Dortmund), Malik Tillman (PSV Eindhoven).

Forwards: Brenden Aaronson (Union Berlin), Folarin Balogun (Monaco), Kevin Paredes (Wolfsburg), Ricardo Pepi (PSV Eindhoven), Christian Pulisic (AC Milan), Tim Weah (Juventus).

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

NFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1.000	118	90
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	124	41
Washington	2	3	0	.400	109	160
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	46	122

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	84	68
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	62	77
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	62	76
Carolina	0	4	0	.000	67	102

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	106	83
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	100	96
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	90	95
Chicago	1	4	0	.200	115	157

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
San Francisco	4	0	0	1.000	125	58
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	111	91
L.A. Rams	2	2	0	.500	98	85
Arizona	1	3	0	.250	88	102

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	139	55
Miami	3	1	0	.750	150	119
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	62	84
New England	1	3	0	.250	55	97

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Houston	2	2	0	.500	96	79
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	97	99
Jacksonville	2	2	0	.500	80	82
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	72	70

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	99	58
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	76	60
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	62	100
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	49	94

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Kansas City	3	1	0	.750	101	60
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	110	104
Denver	1	3	0	.250	100	150
Las Vegas	1	3	0	.250	62	101

WEEK 5
THURSDAY'S RESULT
Chicago 40, at Washington 20

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Baltimore (-4½) at Pittsburgh, 1
Jacksonville vs. Buffalo (-5½) in London, 9:30 a.m.
Carolina at Detroit (-10), 1
Houston at Atlanta (-1½), 1
N.Y. Giants at Miami (-12), 1
New Orleans (-1) at New England, 1
Tennessee (-2½) at Indianapolis, 1
Cincinnati (-3) at Arizona, 4:05
Philadelphia (-4½) at L.A. Rams, 4:05
Kansas City (-3½) at Minnesota, 4:25
N.Y. Jets at Denver (-2), 4:25
Dallas at San Francisco (-3½), 8:20
BYE: Cleveland, L.A. Chargers, Seattle, Tampa Bay

MONDAY'S GAME
Green Bay (-1) at Las Vegas, 8:15

WEEK 6
THURSDAY'S GAME
Denver at Kansas City, 8:15

SUNDAY, OCT. 15
Washington at Atlanta, 1
Baltimore vs Tennessee in London, 9:30 a.m.
Carolina at Miami, 1
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1
Minnesota at Chicago, 1
New Orleans at Houston, 1
San Francisco at Cleveland, 1
Seattle at Cincinnati, 1
New England at Las Vegas, 4:05
Arizona at L.A. Rams, 4:25
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 4:25
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, 4:25
N.Y. Giants at Buffalo, 8:20
BYE: Pittsburgh, Green Bay

MONDAY, OCT. 15
Dallas at L.A. Chargers, 8:15

NFC LEADERS
Entering Thursday's game.

PASSING	ATT-CMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	RATE
Purdy, SF	112/81	72.3	1019	5	0	115.1
Cousins, Min	157/108	68.8	1214	11	4	104.4
Mayfield, TB	125/87	69.6	882	7	2	101.5
Dobbs, Ari	123/87	70.7	814	4	0	99.4
Goff, Det	131/91	69.5	1029	6	3	98.4
G.Smith, Sea	123/84	68.3	846	5	1	97.8
Prescott, Dal	136/97	71.3	908	4	1	96.1
Hurts, Phi	130/88	67.7	959	5	3	92.4

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Jefferson, Min	33	543	16.5	52	3
Nacua, LAR	39	501	12.8	37	1
A.Brown, Phi	29	414	14.3	59	2
Evans, TB	20	337	16.9	70	3
St. Brown, Det	26	331	12.7	39	2
Aiyuk, SF	17	320	18.8	42	2
Lamb, Dal	23	309	13.4	49	1

RUSHING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
McCaffrey, SF	80	459	5.7	65	6
Swift, Phi	59	364	6.2	43	2
Conner, Ari	62	318	5.1	26	2
Robinson, Atl	53	318	6.0	38	0
Pollard, Dal	73	311	4.3	31	2
Walker, Sea	64	283	4.4	36	5
Montgomery, Det	69	262	3.8	16	5

AFC LEADERS
Through Sunday's games.

PASSING	ATT-CMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	RATE
Tagovailoa, Mia	136/97	71.3	1306	9	3	114.4
J.Allen, Buf	135/101	74.8	1048	9	4	106.7
Wilson, Den	132/89	67.4	1014	9	2	106.7
Herbert, LAC	145/103	71.0	1106	7	1	106.3
Jackson, Bal	105/78	74.3	794	4	1	104.2
Stroud, Hou	151/94	62.3	1212	6	0	100.6
Mahomes, KC	143/92	64.3	1006	8	4	92.0

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
T.Hill, Mia	28	470	16.8	54	4
K.Allen, LAC	35	434	12.4	42	3
N.Collins, Hou	22	428	19.5	52	3
Diggs, Buf	31	399	12.9	55	4
Adams, Las	33	397	12.0	32	3
Chase, Cin	29	284	9.8	43	0
Dell, Hou	16	267	16.7	68	2

RUSHING	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
Achane, Mia	27	309	11.4	67	4
Cook, Buf	56	296	5.3	36	1
Henry, Ten	73	285	3.9	29	2
Moss, Ind	66	280	4.2	24	1
Pacheco, KC	55	270	4.9	48	2
Etienne, Jac	69	260	3.8	26	1
Mostert, Mia	48	249	5.2	43	6

BASEBALL

MLB playoffs

FIRST ROUND
Best of three

NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIAMONDBACKS ELIMINATED BREWERS, 2-0
Game 1: Arizona 6, at Milwaukee 3
Game 2: Arizona 5, at Milwaukee 2

PHILLIES ELIMINATED MARLINS, 2-0
Game 1: at Philadelphia 4, Miami 1
Game 2: at Philadelphia 7, Miami 1

AMERICAN LEAGUE
RANGERS ELIMINATED RAYS, 2-0
Game 1: Texas 4, at Tampa Bay 0
Game 2: Texas 7, at Tampa Bay 1

TWINS ELIMINATED BLUE JAYS, 2-0
Game 1: at Minnesota 3, Toronto 1
Game 2: at Minnesota 2, Toronto 0

DIVISION SERIES
Best of five; x-If necessary

NATIONAL LEAGUE
BRAVES VS. PHILLIES
Saturday's game: Philadelphia (TBA) at Atlanta (TBA), 6 (TBS)
Monday's game: Philadelphia at Atlanta, 6 (TBS)
Wednesday's game: Atlanta at Philadelphia, TBD (TBS)
x-Thursday's game: Atlanta at Philadelphia, TBD (TBS)
x-Saturday, Oct. 14: Philadelphia at Atlanta, TBD (TBS)

DODGERS VS. DIAMONDBACKS
Saturday's game: Arizona (TBA) at Los Angeles (Kershaw), 9:20 (TBS)
Monday's game: Arizona at Los Angeles, 9 (TBS)
Wednesday's game: Los Angeles at Arizona, TBD (TBS)
x-Thursday's game: Los Angeles at Arizona, TBD (TBS)
x-Saturday, Oct. 14: Arizona at Los Angeles, TBD (TBS)

AMERICAN LEAGUE
ORIOLES VS. RANGERS
Saturday's game: Texas (TBA) at Baltimore (TBA), 1 (FS1)
Sunday's game: Texas at Baltimore, 4 (FS1)
Tuesday's game: Baltimore at Texas, 8 (FOX)
x-Wednesday's game: Baltimore at Texas, TBD (TBA)
x-Friday, Oct. 13: Texas at Baltimore, TBD (TBA)

ASTROS VS. TWINS
Saturday's game: Minnesota (TBA) at Houston (Verlander), 4:45 (FS1)
Sunday's game: Minnesota at Houston, 8 (FS1)
Tuesday's game: Houston at Minnesota, 4 (FOX)
x-Wednesday's game: Houston at Minnesota, TBD (TBA)
x-Friday, Oct. 13: Minnesota at Houston, TBD (TBA)

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
Best of seven; x-If necessary

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Monday, Oct. 16:
Tuesday, Oct. 17:
Thursday, Oct. 19:
Friday, Oct. 20:
x-Saturday, Oct. 21:
x-Monday, Oct. 23:
x-Tuesday, Oct. 24:

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Sunday, Oct. 15:
Monday, Oct. 16:
Wednesday, Oct. 18:
Thursday, Oct. 19:
x-Friday, Oct. 20:
x-Sunday, Oct. 22:
x-Monday, Oct. 23:

WORLD SERIES
Best of seven; x-If necessary
Friday, Oct. 27:
Saturday, Oct. 28:
Monday, Oct. 30:
Tuesday, Oct. 31:
x-Wednesday, Nov. 1:
x-Friday, Nov. 3:
x-Saturday, Nov. 4:

GOLF

PGA Tour

SANDERSON FARMS CHAMPIONSHIP
At Country Club of Jackson (Miss.)
Purse: $8.2 million; Yardage: 7,461; Par: 72

FIRST ROUND

Chesson Hadley	32	32	—	64	-8
Henrik Norlander	34	31	—	65	-7
Brandon Wu	33	32	—	65	-7
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	34	32	—	66	-6
Akshay Bhatia	33	33	—	66	-6
Russell Knox	33	33	—	66	-6
Luke List	33	33	—	66	-6
Peter Malnati	33	33	—	66	-6
Matthew NeSmith	34	32	—	66	-6
Carl Yuan	34	32	—	66	-6
Ludvig Aberg	34	33	—	67	-5
Wesley Bryan	35	32	—	67	-5
Cameron Champ	33	34	—	67	-5
Zecheng Dou	35	32	—	67	-5
Harrison Endycott	34	33	—	67	-5
Ben Griffin	34	33	—	67	-5
Lanto Griffin	34	33	—	67	-5
Kevin Kisner	33	34	—	67	-5
Hank Lebioda	33	34	—	67	-5
Nicholas Lindheim	35	32	—	67	-5
Doc Redman	33	34	—	67	-5
Sam Ryder	30	37	—	67	-5
Adam Svensson	35	32	—	67	-5
Davis Thompson	34	33	—	67	-5
Erik Van Rooyen	34	33	—	67	-5
Jimmy Walker	34	33	—	67	-5

LPGA Tour

ASCENDANT LPGA
At Old American Golf Club; The Colony, Tex.
Purse: $1.8 million; Yardage: 6,517; Par: 71

FIRST ROUND

Hyo Joo Kim	31	33	—	64	-7
Sofia Garcia	31	35	—	66	-5
Yu-Sang Hou	31	35	—	66	-5
Azahara Munoz	32	34	—	66	-5
Marina Alex	34	33	—	67	-4
Sarah Kemp	35	32	—	67	-4
Minami Katsu	33	35	—	68	-3
Jenny Shin	34	34	—	68	-3
Lindsey Weaver-Wright	35	33	—	68	-3
Celine Boutier	35	34	—	69	-2
Nicole Broch Estrup	35	34	—	69	-2
Jennifer Chang	35	34	—	69	-2
Hannah Green	35	34	—	69	-2
Yuna Nishimura	34	35	—	69	-2
Yealimi Noh	34	35	—	69	-2
Pornanong Phatlum	32	37	—	69	-2
Louise Ridderstrom	35	34	—	69	-2
Pauline Roussin	34	35	—	69	-2
Gabriella Then	36	33	—	69	-2
Maria Torres	35	34	—	69	-2
Mariajo Uribe	35	34	—	69	-2
Chanettee Wannasaen	36	33	—	69	-2
Weiwei Zhang	33	36	—	69	-2
Cheyenne Knight	35	35	—	70	-1
Bronte Law	36	34	—	70	-1
Amelia Lewis	35	35	—	70	-1
Leona Maguire	35	35	—	70	-1
Bianca Pagdanganan	34	36	—	70	-1
Emily Pedersen	35	35	—	70	-1
Sarah Schmelzel	35	35	—	70	-1
Atthaya Thitikul	37	33	—	70	-1

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

FIRST ROUND
Best of three

LIBERTY ELIMINATED MYSTICS, 2-0
Game 1: at New York 90, Washington 75
Game 2: at New York 90, Washington 85 (OT)

ACES ELIMINATED SKY, 2-0
Game 1: at Las Vegas 87, Chicago 59
Game 2: at Las Vegas 92, Chicago 70

SUN ELIMINATED LYNX, 2-1
Game 1: at Connecticut 90, Minnesota 60
Game 2: Minnesota 82, at Connecticut 75
Game 3: Connecticut 90, at Minnesota 75

WINGS ELIMINATED DREAM, 2-0
Game 1: at Dallas 94, Atlanta 82
Game 2: at Dallas 101, Atlanta 74

SEMIFINALS
Best of five

LIBERTY ELIMINATED SUN, 3-1
Game 1: Connecticut 78, at New York 63
Game 2: at New York 84, Connecticut 77
Game 3: New York 92, at Connecticut 81
Game 4: New York 87, at Connecticut 84

ACES ELIMINATED WINGS, 3-0
Game 1: at Las Vegas 97, Dallas 83
Game 2: at Las Vegas 91, Dallas 84
Game 3: Las Vegas 64, at Dallas 61

FINALS
Best of five; x-If necessary

ACES VS. LIBERTY
Sunday's game: Las Vegas at New York, 3 (ABC)
Wednesday's game: Las Vegas at New York, 9 (ESPN)
Sunday, Oct. 15: New York at Las Vegas, 3 (ABC)
x-Wednesday, Oct. 18: New York at Las Vegas, 8 (ESPN)
x-Friday, Oct. 20: Las Vegas at New York, 9 (ESPN)

NBA preseason

NBA PRESEASON BEGINS
THURSDAY'S RESULT
Minnesota 111, Dallas 99, in Abu Dhabi

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota vs. Dallas in Abu Dhabi, noon
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 8:30

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Milwaukee, 1
Phoenix at Detroit, 3
Philadelphia at Boston, 6
Indiana at Memphis, 8
Sacramento at Toronto, 8
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 9

MONDAY'S GAMES
Boston at New York, 7:30
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 9

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Taipans (Australia) at Washington, 7
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30
Charlotte at Miami, 7:30
Indiana at Houston, 8
Milwaukee at Memphis, 8
Orlando at New Orleans, 8
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10
Denver at Phoenix, 10
Breakers (New Zealand) at Portland, 10

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Philadelphia, 7
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10

Timberwolves 111, Mavericks 99

DALLAS	19	30	25	25	—	99
MINNESOTA	37	29	21	24	—	111

DALLAS: Prosper 0-3 1-2 1, Williams 2-7 0-0 6, Lively 1-2 0-0 2, Doncic 8-14 6-7 25, Irving 1-6 0-0 2, Brown III 0-3 0-0 0, Holmes 1-1 0-0 2, Kleber 1-3 0-0 2, Morris 1-3 0-2 3, Powell 2-4 1-2 5, Wieskamp 2-2 0-0 5, Curry 0-2 0-0 0, Dennis 2-5 1-2 7, Exum 1-4 2-2 5, Green 3-6 0-0 6, Hardy 4-10 4-8 13, Lawson 2-9 2-5 7, Walker 3-8 0-0 8. **Totals** 34-92 17-30 99.

MINNESOTA: McDaniels 2-8 4-4 9, Towns 8-16 2-3 20, Gobert 3-6 3-4 9, Alexander-Walker 3-5 2-2 11, Conley 2-3 0-0 5, Miller 2-4 0-0 4, Minott 0-3 0-0 0, Ryan 0-3 0-0 0, Reid 6-14 4-5 16, Brown Jr. 2-6 0-0 6, Milton 5-6 0-0 12, Anderson 1-4 0-2 2, Garza 6-13 0-1 12, McLaughlin 1-2 0-0 2, Moore Jr. 1-2 1-1 3. **Totals** 42-95 16-22 111.

Three-pointers: Dallas 14-46 (Doncic 3-8, Dennis 2-4, Walker 2-6, Williams 2-7, Exum 1-1, Wieskamp 1-1, Morris 1-3, Hardy 1-4, Lawson 1-4, Kleber 0-1, Powell 0-1, Green 0-2, Irving 0-2, Prosper 0-2), Minnesota 11-35 (Alexander-Walker 3-5, Milton 2-3, Brown Jr. 2-5, Towns 2-7, Conley 1-2, McDaniels 1-3, Anderson 0-1, Garza 0-1, Miller 0-1, Minott 0-1, Reid 0-3, Ryan 0-3). **Rebounds:** Dallas 42 (Lawson 7), Minnesota 56 (Gobert 8). **Assists:** Dallas 18 (Exum, Green, Hardy, Walker 3), Minnesota 28 (Alexander-Walker, Anderson 5).

TENNIS

ATP

SHANGHAI MASTERS
At Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena; in Shanghai
Purse: $8,800,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

SINGLES — ROUND OF 128
Gregoire Barrere, France, def. Nuno Borges, Portugal, 6-2, 6-2; Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Philip Sekulic, Australia, 6-3, 6-2; Chun Hsin Tseng, Taiwan, def. Alexander Shevchenko, Russia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Alexandre Muller, France, 6-7 (8-6), 6-3, 6-2; Arthur Fils, France, def. Pavel Kotov, Russia, 6-1, 6-4; Aleksandar Vukic, Australia, def. Roberto Carballes Baena, Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7); Rinky Hijikata, Australia, def. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5; Beibit Zhukayev, Kazakhstan, def. Stefano Napolitano, Italy, 7-5, 7-5; Terence Atmane, France, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Matteo Arnaldi, Italy, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Quentin Halys, France, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-2; Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, def. Christopher O'Connell, Australia, 6-2, 6-7 (7-2), 6-4; Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, def. Luca van Assche, France, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, def. Pedro Cachin, Argentina, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Sebastian Ofner, Austria, def. Juan Pablo Varillas, Peru, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6); Yosuke Watanuki, Japan, def. Juncheng Shang, China, 7-6 (9-7), 4-6, 6-4.

WTA

CHINA OPEN
At National Tennis Center; in Beijing
Purse: $3,633,875
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

SINGLES — ROUND OF 16
Caroline Garcia (9), France, def. Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2; Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Veronika Kudermetova (16), Russia, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; Maria Sakkari (6), Greece, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	7	6	1	0	12	22	12
Toronto	7	4	1	2	10	23	19
Detroit	7	4	2	1	9	25	19
Tampa Bay	6	4	2	0	8	18	16
Florida	7	4	3	0	8	23	17
Buffalo	6	3	3	0	6	18	20
Boston	6	2	2	2	6	15	17
Montreal	5	2	3	0	4	13	16

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	6	6	0	0	12	27	13
Washington	5	3	1	1	7	18	18
Philadelphia	6	3	2	1	7	15	17
Columbus	7	3	3	1	7	23	23
Pittsburgh	6	2	3	1	5	13	16
N.Y. Islanders	5	2	3	0	4	16	19
Carolina	5	2	3	0	4	12	16
N.Y. Rangers	6	1	5	0	2	12	21

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	6	4	1	1	9	23	13
St. Louis	7	3	2	2	8	18	20
Minnesota	5	4	1	0	8	15	15
Chicago	5	2	1	2	6	11	15
Winnipeg	6	2	3	1	5	14	14
x-Colorado	5	2	3	0	4	13	16
x-Arizona	7	2	5	0	4	19	25
Nashville	5	1	3	1	3	12	18

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	9	6	1	1	13	26	21
Edmonton	7	4	2	1	9	18	17
Calgary	7	4	2	1	9	27	22
x-Anaheim	6	4	2	0	8	20	18
Seattle	5	3	1	1	7	13	12
San Jose	6	2	2	2	6	15	16
x-Vegas	5	1	3	1	3	10	15
Vancouver	5	1	3	1	3	8	19

x-Late game

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
at New Jersey 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
at Columbus 5, Buffalo 3
Detroit 2, at Pittsburgh 1
at Edmonton 7, Calgary 2
Seattle 2, Vancouver 1 at Abbotsford Centre

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 4, at Columbus 2
at Toronto 4, Detroit 3 (OT)
at Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Islanders 2
Florida 6, at Tampa Bay 3
Boston 3, at N.Y. Rangers 1
at Nashville 5, Carolina 1
Ottawa 3, at Winnipeg 0
St. Louis 4, at Dallas 0
Minnesota 3, at Chicago 2 (SO)
Los Angeles 4, San Jose 3 (OT) at Delta Center
Arizona at Anaheim, late
Colorado at Vegas, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Nashville at Carolina, 7
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 7
Seattle at Edmonton, 9
Calgary at Vancouver, 10

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Washington, 7
Vegas at Los Angeles, 4
Anaheim vs. Arizona at Tucson Arena, 6
Dallas at Minnesota, 6
Tampa Bay at Florida, 6
Montreal at Ottawa, 7
Toronto at Detroit, 7
Chicago at St. Louis, 8

Capitals 4, Blue Jackets 2

WASHINGTON	2	0	2	—	4
COLUMBUS	0	1	1	—	2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Washington, Malenstyn 1 (Sutter, Alexeyev), 8:14. 2, Washington, Protas 1 (Priskie), 12:04.

SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Columbus, Gaunce 1 (Pearson, Mateychuk), 1:25.

THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Washington, Sutter 1 (McMichael), 14:55 (sh). 5, Washington, Lapierre 1, 17:51 (en). 6, Columbus, Bjork 1 (Matteau), 18:51.

SHOTS ON GOAL

WASHINGTON	17	8	14	—	39
COLUMBUS	5	11	7	—	23

Power-play opportunities: Washington 0 of 1; Columbus 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Washington, Lindgren 1-0-0 (23 shots-21 saves). Columbus, Martin 0-1-0 (38-35). **A:** 11,491 (18,500). **T:** 2:14.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB
Baltimore Orioles: Announced RHP Jorge Lopez has cleared waivers and elected free agency in lieu of accepting an assignment to Norfolk (IL).
New York Mets: Announced the resignation of Billy Eppler as general manager.

NFL
Arizona Cardinals: Signed RB Damien Williams to the practice squad.
Chcago Bears: Reinstated G Taven Jenkins from injured reserve. Released QB Nathan Peterman.
Las Vegas Raiders: Signed CB Rejzohn Wright to the practice squad. Released TE John Samuel Shenker from the practice squad.
Minnesota Vikings: Signed QB Tanner Morgan to the practice squad. Promoted OL Hakeem Adeniji from the practice squad to the active roster.
New England Patriots: Acquired CB J.C. Jackson and a 2025 seventh-round pick from the Los Angeles Chargers in exchange for a 2025 sixth-round pick.
New York Jets: Signed G Zavier Newman-Johnson to the practice squad. Released G Adam Pankey from the practice squad.
Washington Commanders: Elevated RB Derrick Gore from the practice squad to the active roster.

NHL
NHL: Suspended Los Angeles Kings F Arthur Kaliyev for two preseason games and two regular season games without pay for kneeing Anaheim F Chase De Leo during an October 3 game against Anaheim.
Calgary Flames: Reassigned G Dustin Wolf to Calgary (AHL). Placed D Nick DeSimone and Cs Emilio Pettersen and Martin Pospisil on waivers.
Edmonton Oilers: Signed RW Brady Stonehouse to a three-year, entry-level contract.
Pittsburgh Penguins: Placed LW Andreas Johnsson on waivers.
Seattle Kraken: Placed LW Devin Shore and RW Marian Studenic on waivers.
Vancouver Canucks: Reassigned C Aatu Raty to Abbotsford (AHL).
Washington Capitals: Recalled D Chase Priskie, C Ethen Frank and RW Riley Sutter from Hershey (AHL).
Winnipeg Jets: Reassigned D Elias Salomonsson to Skelleftea AIK (SHL).

HIGH SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
THURSDAY'S RESULTS
D.C.
Bell at Phelps, late
Ron Brown at Anacostia, late

MARYLAND
Calvert 16, Huntingtown 6
Gaithersburg 42, Magruder 19
Richard Montgomery 39, at Rockville 35
Bethesda-Chevy Chase 42, Wheaton 6

FRIDAY'S GAMES
D.C.
Armstrong/Kennedy at Friendship Collegiate, 6
Cardozo at McKinley Tech, 6
Dunbar at H.D. Woodson, 6
Jackson-Reed at Eastern, 6

MARYLAND
Arundel at Meade, 6
Atholton at Reservoir, 7
Blair at Walter Johnson, 7
Boonsboro at Poolesville, 6:30
Bowie at C.H. Flowers, 4
Broadneck at Old Mill, 6
Centennial at Glenelg, 7
Chesapeake at South River, 6
Chopticon at La Plata, 7
Clarksburg at Wootton, 7
Crossland at Largo, 7
Douglass at Potomac, 6
Eleanor Roosevelt at Bladensburg, 7
Fairmont Heights at St. John's Catholic Prep, 6
Friendly at Gwynn Park, 6:30
Glen Burnie at Crofton, 6
Great Mills at Patuxent, 7
High Point at Oxon Hill, 7
Lackey at Westlake, 7
Leonardtown at Northern, 7
Marriotts Ridge at Howard, 7
Mount Hebron at River Hill, 7
North County at Annapolis, 6
North East at Southern, 6:30
North Point at St. Charles, 7
Northeast at Severna Park, 6
Northwest at Paint Branch, 6:30
Oakland Mills at Long Reach, 7
Seneca Valley at Quince Orchard, 6:30
Sherwood at Damascus, 6:30
Springbrook at Northwood, 6:30
Watkins Mill at Blake, 6:30
Whitman at Churchill, 6:30
Wilde Lake at Hammond, 7

VIRGINIA
Alexandria City at South County, 7
Annandale at Justice, 7
Brentsville at Warren County, 7
Fairfax at W.T. Woodson, 7
Falls Church at Mount Vernon, 7
Freedom (Woodbridge) at Colgan, 7
Gar-Field at Potomac, 7
Hayfield at Edison, 7
Heritage at Broad Run, 7
Herndon at Chantilly, 7
John Champe at Loudoun County, 7
Kettle Run at Meridian, 7
Lewis at Jefferson, 7
Lightridge at Independence, 7
Madison at Westfield, 7
Manassas Park at Skyline, 7
Osbourn at Unity Reed, 7
Osbourn Park at Freedom (South Riding), 7
Park View at Woodgrove, 7
Patriot at Gainesville, 7
Potomac Falls at Stone Bridge, 7
Riverside at Briar Woods, 7
Robinson at West Springfield, 7
Rock Ridge at Dominion, 7
Tuscarora at Loudoun Valley, 7
Wakefield at Langley, 7
Washington Liberty at Marshall, 7
West Potomac at Oakton, 7
Woodbridge at Forest Park, 7
Yorktown at McLean, 7

PRIVATE
Annapolis Area Christian at Severn, 3:30
Archbishop Spalding at Gilman, 4
Gonzaga at DeMatha, 7
McDonogh at Pallotti, 7
Mount Carmel at St. Mary's (Annapolis), 7
National Christian Academy at Bullis, 7
Paul VI at St. Mary's Ryken, 7
Riverdale Baptist at Landon, 4
SEED (Baltimore) at Maret, 7
St. Stephen's/St. Agnes at Episcopal, 8

SATURDAY'S GAMES
D.C.
Digital Pioneers at KIPP Legacy, noon
KIPP College Prep at Paul Public Charter, 2
Theodore Roosevelt at Ballou, 1

MARYLAND
Central at Surrattsville, 2
Einstein at Kennedy, 2:30
McDonough at Thomas Stone, 7
Parkdale at Laurel, 2
Wise at DuVal, 2

PRIVATE
Bishop Ireton at Archbishop Carroll, 2
Georgetown Prep at Benedictine, 2
Good Counsel at St. John's, 2
Indiana School for the Deaf (Ind.) at Model, 7
John Paul the Great at Bishop O'Connell, 2
Kiski School (Pa.) at Potomac School, noon
Northern Virginia Home School at Sidwell Friends, noon
Rock Creek Christian at Trinity Episcopal, 7
Virginia Spartans at Virginia Academy, 2

FIELD HOCKEY
MARYLAND
Broadneck 6, South River 0
Chesapeake 6, Southern 2
Churchill 2, Wootton 1
Crofton 10, Old Mill 0
Whitman 9, Northwest 0

PRIVATE
Archbishop Spalding 7, Mount de Sales 0
Holton-Arms 0, Georgetown Visitation 0
Potomac School 3, Brookewood 0
Stone Ridge 6, Madeira 0

VOLLEYBALL
D.C.
Anacostia def. H.D. Woodson, 2-0
Jackson-Reed def. McKinley Tech, 2-0

MARYLAND
Broadneck def. Severna Park, 3-0
Centennial def. Glenelg, 3-1
Howard def. Marriotts Ridge, 3-0
Sherwood def. Northwest, 3-0
Wootton def. Whitman, 3-0

VIRGINIA
Lightridge def. Stone Bridge, 3-0
W.T. Woodson def. West Potomac, 3-1
West Springfield def. Lake Braddock, 3-1

PRIVATE
Bishop O'Connell def. Good Counsel, 3-0
Georgetown Day def. Sidwell Friends, 3-0
St. John's def. St. Mary's Ryken, 3-1

BOYS' SOCCER
MARYLAND
Broadneck 2, Annapolis 1 (OT)
Chesapeake 9, Southern 0
Friendly 2, Crossland 1
Largo International 2, Central 1
Laurel 4, Bladensburg 0
South River 3, Old Mill 0

PRIVATE
Bishop McNamara 5, Bishop Ireton 1
Gonzaga 2, St. John's 2
The Heights 1, St. Mary's Ryken 0

GIRLS' SOCCER
MARYLAND
Chesapeake 4, Southern 0
Eleanor Roosevelt 4, C.H. Flowers 0
South River 2, Old Mill 1
River Hill 2, Wootton 1
Wise 8, Suitland 0

PRIVATE
Good Counsel 3, Bishop O'Connell 0

GIRLS' TENNIS
PRIVATE
Elizabeth Seton 9, Bishop Ireton 0
Trinity Episcopal 6, Flint Hill 3

GOLF
MARYLAND
Rockville 177, Blake 184, Springbrook 189, Kennedy 238

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
SOUTH
Jacksonville State 45, Middle Tennessee 30
New Mexico State 34, FIU 17

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
SOUTH
Liberty 21, Sam Houston State 16
Western Kentucky 35, Louisiana Tech 28

FRIDAY'S GAMES
EAST
Cornell (2-1) at Harvard (3-0), 7

MIDWEST
Nebraska (2-3) at Illinois (2-3), 8

SOUTHWEST
Kansas State (3-1) at Oklahoma State (2-2), 7:30

AP TOP 25
SATURDAY'S GAMES
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 20 Kentucky, 7
No. 2 Michigan at Minnesota, 7:30
No. 3 Texas vs. No. 12 Oklahoma at Dallas, noon
No. 4 Ohio State vs. Maryland, noon
No. 5 Florida State vs. Virginia Tech, 3:30
No. 9 Southern California vs. Arizona, 10:30
No. 10 Notre Dame at No. 25 Louisville, 7:30
No. 11 Alabama at Texas A&M, 3:30
No. 13 Washington State at UCLA, 3
No. 14 North Carolina vs. Syracuse, 3:30
No. 15 Oregon State at California, 10
No. 16 Mississippi vs. Arkansas, 7:30
No. 17 Miami vs. Georgia Tech, 8
No. 21 Missouri vs. No. 23 LSU, noon
No. 24 Fresno State at Wyoming, 8

SOCCER

MLS

EAST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Cincinnati	19	5	8	65	54	37
Orlando City	16	7	9	57	50	37
Philadelphia	15	8	9	54	56	39
Columbus	15	9	8	53	64	44
New England	14	7	10	52	52	39
Atlanta	13	9	10	49	63	50
Nashville	12	10	9	45	36	29
Chicago	10	12	10	40	39	48
CF Montréal	11	16	5	38	31	49
New York City FC	8	10	14	38	34	37
D.C. United	9	14	10	37	43	49
New York	9	13	10	37	32	39
Charlotte FC	8	11	12	36	40	50
Inter Miami CF	9	16	6	33	39	50
Toronto FC	4	18	10	22	26	54

WEST	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis City SC	17	11	5	56	62	43
Seattle	13	9	10	49	39	32
Los Angeles FC	13	10	9	48	49	36
Real Salt Lake	13	11	7	46	43	45
Vancouver	12	10	10	46	54	47
Houston	12	11	9	45	43	36
Portland	11	11	10	43	44	51
San Jose	10	10	12	42	37	41
FC Dallas	10	10	11	41	35	34
Austin FC	10	14	8	38	46	50
Sporting KC	10	14	8	38	42	48
Minnesota United	9	12	11	38	40	46
LA Galaxy	8	12	11	35	46	56
Colorado	5	15	11	26	24	47

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
at Austin FC 3, D.C. United 0
at Charlotte FC 3, Toronto FC 0
New York 2, at Cincinnati 1
Houston 1, at CF Montréal 1
Columbus 2, at New England 1
at Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 2
at Chicago 4, Miami 1
Orlando City 1, at Nashville 0
at Los Angeles FC 5, Minnesota 1
at Seattle 2, LA Galaxy 1
at Vancouver 3, St. Louis City SC 0
Colorado at FC Dallas ppd.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
New York City FC at D.C. United, 7:30
Columbus at Atlanta, 7:30
Cincinnati at Miami, 7:30
Portland at CF Montréal, 7:30
Toronto FC at New York, 7:30
New England at Orlando City, 7:30
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7:30
Los Angeles FC at Austin FC, 8:30
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30
San Jose at FC Dallas, 8:30
Colorado at Houston, 8:30
LA Galaxy at Minnesota, 8:30
Sporting KC at Real Salt Lake, 9:30
Vancouver at Seattle, 10:30

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	10	7	3	33	29	22
Portland	9	6	5	32	40	27
Gotham FC	8	6	6	30	23	21
North Carolina	8	7	5	29	28	22
Washington	7	5	8	29	26	28
OL Reign	8	8	4	28	26	24
Orlando	9	10	1	28	24	25
Houston	6	6	8	26	15	15
Angel City	6	7	7	25	24	28
Louisville	5	6	9	24	22	20
Chicago	7	10	3	24	25	41
Kansas City	7	12	1	22	22	31

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
Washington at OL Reign, 8
Orlando at Louisville, 7:30

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Gotham FC at Portland, 5
San Diego at North Carolina, 7
Chicago at Kansas City, 8

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815 Legal Notices

Public Meetings: Notice of Availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for US Wind's Proposed Maryland Offshore Wind Project

You are invited to attend public meetings on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Maryland Offshore Wind Project. The project would be located approximately 10 nautical miles off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland, and approximately 9 nautical miles offshore Sussex County, Delaware. The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the draft EIS was published on October 6, 2023, and the 45-day public comment period will end on November 20, 2023. Two in-person and two virtual public meetings will be held on the following dates, times (Eastern), and locations:

In-Person public meetings:

- Tues., Oct. 24, 2023, at 5:00 pm
  Ocean City Elementary
  12828 Center Dr, Ocean City, MD 21842
- Thu., Oct. 26, 2023, at 5:00 pm
  Indian River High School
  29772 Armory Rd, Dagsboro, DE 19939

Virtual public meetings: All times are Eastern. Registration for the virtual public meetings is required.

- Thu., Oct. 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm
- Mon., Oct. 30, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Registration for the virtual public hearings is required and may be completed here: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_x3ygygooTOSlnrzhiOJYPg. The meetings are open to the public and free to attend. Dial-in phone numbers are: +1 888 788 0099 US (West Coast USA), +1 833 548 0276 US (East Coast USA). Webinar ID: 161 859 6476, Passcode: 757164.

Comments may be submitted electronically via regulations.gov by searching for Docket No. BOEM-2023-0050 and clicking "Comment." Comments may also be submitted by mail with envelopes labeled "Maryland Offshore Wind DEIS" and addressed to Program Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166. Comments must be received or postmarked no later than November 20, 2023. BOEM does not consider anonymous comments. Please include your name and address as part of your submittal. All comments submitted will be made part of the public record and will be posted publicly without change.

For information on the US Wind Project and BOEM's process associated with this notice, please visit https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maryland-offshore-wind or contact Jessica Stromberg, BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP, Sterling, Virginia 20166, (703) 787-1722 or jessica.stromberg@boem.gov.

365 Auction Sales

PUBLIC AUCTION
JK MOVING SERVICES
JK Moving 44112 Mercure Circle Sterling, VA 20166
SATURDAY, October 7, 2023, 9:00am
Over 125 storage vaults and 27 overflows of household items, antique furniture, sofas, ottomans, drop leaf tables, mirrors, round tables, buffet, end tables, coffee tables, arm chairs, freezers, lawn mower, patio furniture, Exercise equipment, bedroom furniture, dining room table and chairs, baby furniture, office furniture, file cabinets, and more!
Preview/Register: 8:30am **rickardsauctions.com**
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825 Bids & Proposals

BASIS DC, A Public Charter School, is advertising the opportunity to submit proposals for qualified vendors to provide advertising on Transit Vehicles in the DC Metro area for BASIS DC. All interested firms are asked to visit the Bonfire electronic procurement portal at https://basised.bonfirehub.com to receive access to the RFP (BDCS-TRANSITADS-FY24-003) documents. Due date for proposals is no later than Friday, October 20, 2023 at 12:00 pm MST.

KIPP DC
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT
Recruitment and Professional Development Services
KIPP DC intends to enter a sole source contract with Teach for America for the recruitment and professional development of instructional staff. The decision to sole source was made because Teach for America is a national leader in recruiting, selecting, and providing ongoing professional development to individuals committed to closing the opportunity gap by serving as effective classroom teachers. Teach for America is uniquely positioned to provide quality first-year teachers while implementing a professional development model that supports teachers and aligns with KIPP DC's professional development program. The cost of the contract will be approximately $40,000. Questions can be addressed to shanelle.trenard@kippdc.org.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ERP Implementation Consulting Services
KIPP DC is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for ERP Implementation Consulting Services. The RFP can be found on KIPP DC's website at www.kippdc.org/procurement. Proposals should be uploaded to the website no later than 5:00 PM EST on October 26, 2023. Questions can be addressed to jonathan.weinstein@kippdc.org.

852 Anne Arundel County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Diane S. Rosenberg, et al.
Substitute Trustees

Versus

Estate of Sadie Mae Hill
Estate of Wesley R Hill, Jr.
Defendants

No. C-02-CV-23-000227

NOTICE
Notice is hereby issued this **Friday, September 22, 2023** that the sale of the property in the proceedings mentioned, made and reported by Mark D. Meyer, BE RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **16th day of October 2023** next; provided, a copy of this Notice be inserted in some newspaper published in Anne Arundel County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **16th day of October 2023** next. The report states that the amount of sale of the property at **3501 DAVENPORT COURT, UNIT: H, PASADENA, MD 21122** to be **$95,000.00**.

Scott A. Poyer
Circuit Court For
Anne Arundel County, MD.

Sep 29,Oct 6,13 2023 0012436747

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840 Trustees Sale - DC

COHN, GOLDBERG & DEUTSCH, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1099 WINTERSON ROAD
SUITE 301
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 21090

TRUSTEES' FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

1901 CAPITOL AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

The undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction at Alex Coopers Auctioneers, Inc. 4910 Massachusetts Avenue N.W. Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, on

October 12, 2023 AT 1:12 P.M.

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust from Evolution Elite, LLC, dated October 14, 2021, recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2021137117 on October 15, 2021, with an original principal balance of $842,500.00, and an original interest rate of 8.99% per annum with a default rate of 13.99% per annum, default having occurred under the terms thereof.
ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT NUMBERED NINETEEN (19) IN GRACE THOMPSON AND THERESA THOMPSON'S SUBDIVISION OF LOTS IN BLOCK NUMBERED TWO (2) "IVY CITY" AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN LIBER 34 AT FOLIO 137.
A.P.N.: 4045//0019
The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above.
TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of the lesser of $84,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 30 days of the sale. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (30) days of the sale, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have to resell the property. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 13.99% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated, or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. Additional terms may be announced at sale. CGD File #: 460499
Richard E. Solomon, Richard J. Rogers, Michael McKeefery, Christianna Kersey, Kevin Hildebeidel, Kyle Blackstone, and Kathleen Young, Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Oct 2,4,6,9,11 2023 0012437393

840 Trustees Sale - DC

Fellner Legal Services
485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, MD 21146
443. 906.0117

SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
5007 D Street, SE, #301,
Washington, DC 20019, and
Parking Space 27

Pursuant to District of Columbia Condominium Act of 1976, Section 313 (as amended) and by that certain Declaration of THE PELLEGRINO CONDOMINIUMS recorded May 30, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006070830; and the By-Laws of THE PELLEGRINO CONDOMINIUMS recorded May 30, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006070831, and being situated on Lot 34 in Square 5321 per Plat recorded in the Condominium Book 59, Page 7, in the Office of the Surveyor, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:48 P.M.,** at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
5007 D Street, SE, #301, Washington, DC 20019, Lot 2015 in Square 5321, and Parking Space 27, Lot 2043 in Square 5321 together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the said Declaration of THE PELLEGRINO CONDOMINIUMS,
5007 D Street, SE, #301, Washington, DC 20019, and Parking Space 27 is the property conveyed to Nadine T. Shipman by Deed recorded on 10/2/06 as Instrument No. 2006134110.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. The Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deeds of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 as amended, and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30-day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
THE PELLEGRINO CONDOMINIUM
bfellner@flslawyer.com

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437403

840 Trustees Sale - DC

MARK H. WITTSTADT, ESQUIRE
1966 GREENSPRING DRIVE, SUITE LL2
LUTHERVILLE, MD 21093
410-238-2840

TRUSTEE'S SALE
REAL PROPERTY CONDOMINIUM UNIT
1745 KALORAMA ROAD, NW UNIT 101
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

By virtue of a certain Purchase Money Construction Deed of Trust from District Trust Advisors LLC dated April 28, 2022 and duly recorded May 6, 2022 as Instrument No. 2022050162 (the "Deed of Trust") among the Land Records of the District of Columbia (the "Land Records"), a default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and the covenants contained therein, and at the request of the party secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and following mailing of the Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit recorded among the Land Records on September 11, 2023 as Instrument No. 2023078121 and the recordation of the Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure recorded among the Land Records on August 28, 2023 as Instrument No. 2023074271 the undersigned Trustee will sell, at public auction, within the office of ALEX COOPER AUCTIONEERS, INC., 4910 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 100, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 on

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 AT 12:38 PM

The real estate located at 1745 Kalorama Road, NW Unit 101 Washington, DC and legally described as follows:
UNIT 101 IN THE CONDOMINIUM KNOWN AS "1745 KALORAMA ROAD, N.W. CONDOMINIUM", ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM DATED 12/21/1989 AND RECORDED MARCH 30, 1990 AS INSTRUMENT NO. 9000018751, AS AMENDED, AND THE BY-LAWS OF CONDOMINIUM DATED DEC 21, 1989 AND RECORDED 3/30/1990 AS INSTRUMENT NO. 9000018752, AS AMENDED, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN CONDOMINIUM BOOK 39 AT PAGE 18.
TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE SHARE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS OF SAID "1745 KALORAMA ROAD, N.W. CONDOMINIUM" AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM AND THE EXHIBITS THERETO.
SAID CONDOMINIUM PROJECT IS SITUATE ON LOT 129 IN SOUARE 2560 IN THE SUBDIVISION MADE BY 1745 KALORAMA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN LIBER 183 AT FOLIO 18 IN THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. SAID PROPERTY BEING NOW KNOWN FOR ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION PURPOSES AS LOT 2022 IN SQUARE 2560.
The improvements thereon being known as 1745 Kalorama Road Northwest, Unit #101, Washington, District of Columbia 20009.
TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the above-described land, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances, and any furniture, furnishings, equipment, machinery and other personal property owned and located in, upon or about the above-described land and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust (the "Property"). The "Property" does not include any property owned by any tenants at the Property.
TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. The Property will be offered as an entirety only. The bid that yields the highest price for the Property will be accepted by the Trustee (unless the sale is postponed or cancelled) and all bids will be provisional until acceptance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Trustee absolutely reserves the right to postpone the sale and/or cancel the sale at any time until the auctioneer announces that the Property is "sold" and the Trustee receives the deposit in the required amount and form. A deposit in the amount of $25,000.00 will be required at the time of sale as a condition to bidding. Such deposit must be by cashier's check or certified check or in such other form as the Trustee may determine in his sole discretion, which check shall be payable to "Mark H. Wittstadt, Trustee." The deposit must be increased to 10% of the purchase price within 2 business days after consummation of the sale and delivered to the Substitute Trustee in the same form of funds as the initial deposit. The Noteholder secured by the Deed of Trust (or any related party) shall be exempted by the Trustee from submitting any bidding deposit. The Trustee will, as a condition of the sale, require all potential bidders except the Noteholder to show their deposit before any bidding begins. The retained deposit of the successful purchaser shall be applied, without interest, to the successful purchaser's credit at settlement; provided, however, that in the event the successful purchaser does not consummate the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale as herein provided, such deposit, will be forfeited, and after payment of all expenses and commissions due in connection with the defaulted sale, the balance shall be applied to the indebtedness due under the terms of the note and Deed of Trust. The terms of sale must be complied with, and settlement consummated thereon within 25 days from the day of sale unless extended at the sole discretion of the Trustee. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the default rate of 18% per annum being charged from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement by bank wire transfer; and if not so paid, the Trustee as stated above will forfeit the deposit and reserves the right to resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, after such advertisement and on such terms as the Trustee may deem proper, and to avail himself and the Noteholder of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser.
The Property is sold subject to the rights, if any, of parties in possession, if such rights have priority over the Deed of Trust or have been granted non-disturbance or similar rights, and to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and limitations of record. The Property will be sold "WHERE IS" and in "AS IS" condition without any warranty as to condition, express or implied, and without any representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information furnished to prospective bidders by the Trustee or any other party, if any, and without any other representations or warranty of any nature. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to (i) title to the Property, (ii) the nature, condition, structural integrity, or fitness for a particular use of any improvements, fixtures or personal property included within the Property, (iii) the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the presence or disposal of hazardous substances, (iv) compliance of the Property with the Americans with Disabilities Act or any similar law, (v) compliance of the Property with any zoning laws or ordinances and any and all applicable safety codes, or (vi) compliance with any tenants' rights or similar laws, and acceptance of the Deed to the Property by the successful purchaser shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Trustee or the Noteholder concerning any of the foregoing matters. The successful purchaser recognizes that any investigation, examination, or inspection of the Property is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession of the Property and not within the control of the Trustee or the Noteholder.
Conveyance shall be by Trustee's Deed, without covenant or warranty, express or implied. The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty to the Property from and after the time of sale shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. The Property shall be sold subject to all taxes, ground rents, public charges, assessments, sewer, water, drainage, and other public improvements, if any, whether assessments have been levied or not. The Noteholder and Trustee assume no liability for fuel, gas, electricity, utilities, and other operating charges accrued before or after the sale and all such charges shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser from the date of sale. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the successful purchaser. The District of Columbia Government may impose transfer and recordation taxes on any assignment of the successful bid prior to recordation of the Trustee's Deed. The successful purchaser shall be solely liable for payment of such additional transfer and recordation taxes, if any. If the Trustee cannot convey title, the purchaser's sole remedy is a return of deposit. Further particulars may be announced at the time of sale.

Mark H. Wittstadt, Trustee

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Oct 6,9,11 2023 0012438102

265 Home & Garden

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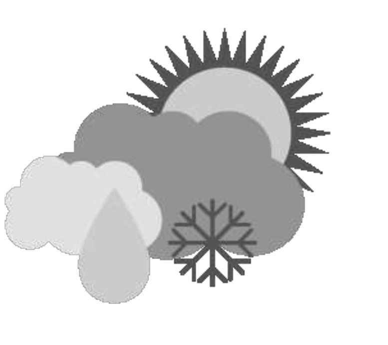

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840 Trustees Sale - DC

MARK H. WITTSTADT, ESQUIRE
1966 GREENSPRING DRIVE, SUITE LL2
LUTHERVILLE, MD 21093
410-238-2840

TRUSTEE'S SALE
REAL PROPERTY
1618 FORT DAVIS PLACE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020

By virtue of a certain Purchase Money Construction Deed of Trust from 1618 GSD, LLC dated December 17, 2021 and duly recorded December 22, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021166309 (the "Deed of Trust") and subsequently assigned by Assignment of Mortgage recorded October 19, 2022 as Instrument Number 2022105599 among the Land Records of the District of Columbia (the "Land Records"), a default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and the covenants contained therein, and at the request of the party secured thereby (the "Noteholder"), and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and following mailing of the Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit recorded among the Land Records on September 11, 2023 as Instrument No. 2023078120 and the recordation of the Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure recorded among the Land Records on August 28, 2023 as Instrument No. 2023074133 the undersigned Trustee will sell, at public auction, within the office of ALEX COOPER AUCTIONEERS, INC., 4910 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 100, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 on

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 AT 12:40 PM

The real estate located at 1618 Fort Davis Place, SE Washington, DC and legally described as follows:
Lot 19 in Square E-5519 in a Subdivision made by Anna Maloney, as per plat recorded in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia in Liber 113 at folio 40
Parcel ID: 5519-E -0019
The improvements thereon being known as 1618 Fort Davis Place, SE Washington, District of Columbia 20020.
TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the above-described land, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances, and any furniture, furnishings, equipment, machinery and other personal property owned and located in, upon or about the above-described land and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust (the "Property"). The "Property" does not include any property owned by any tenants at the Property.
TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. The Property will be offered as an entirety only. The bid that yields the highest price for the Property will be accepted by the Trustee (unless the sale is postponed or cancelled) and all bids will be provisional until acceptance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Trustee absolutely reserves the right to postpone the sale and/or cancel the sale at any time until the auctioneer announces that the Property is "sold" and the Trustee receives the deposit in the required amount and form. A deposit in the amount of $25,000.00 will be required at the time of sale as a condition to bidding. Such deposit must be by cashier's check or certified check or in such other form as the Trustee may determine in his sole discretion, which check shall be payable to "Mark H. Wittstadt, Trustee." The deposit must be increased to 10% of the purchase price within 2 business days after consummation of the sale and delivered to the Substitute Trustee in the same form of funds as the initial deposit. The Noteholder secured by the Deed of Trust (or any related party) shall be exempted by the Trustee from submitting any bidding deposit. The Trustee will, as a condition of the sale, require all potential bidders except the Noteholder to show their deposit before any bidding begins. The retained deposit of the successful purchaser shall be applied, without interest, to the successful purchaser's credit at settlement; provided, however, that in the event the successful purchaser does not consummate the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale as herein provided, such deposit, will be forfeited, and after payment of all expenses and commissions due in connection with the defaulted sale, the balance shall be applied to the indebtedness due under the terms of the note and Deed of Trust. The terms of sale must be complied with, and settlement consummated thereon within 25 days from the day of sale unless extended at the sole discretion of the Trustee. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the default rate of 18% per annum being charged from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement by bank wire transfer; and if not so paid, the Trustee as stated above will forfeit the deposit and reserves the right to resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, after such advertisement and on such terms as the Trustee may deem proper, and to avail himself and the Noteholder of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser.
The Property is sold subject to the rights, if any, of parties in possession, if such rights have priority over the Deed of Trust or have been granted non-disturbance or similar rights, and to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and limitations of record. The Property will be sold "WHERE IS" and in "AS IS" condition without any warranty as to condition, express or implied, and without any representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information furnished to prospective bidders by the Trustee or any other party, if any, and without any other representations or warranty of any nature. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to (i) title to the Property, (ii) the nature, condition, structural integrity, or fitness for a particular use of any improvements, fixtures or personal property included within the Property, (iii) the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the presence or disposal of hazardous substances, (iv) compliance of the Property with the Americans with Disabilities Act or any similar law, (v) compliance of the Property with any zoning laws or ordinances and any and all applicable safety codes, or (vi) compliance with any tenants' rights or similar laws, and acceptance of the Deed to the Property by the successful purchaser shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Trustee or the Noteholder concerning any of the foregoing matters. The successful purchaser recognizes that any investigation, examination, or inspection of the Property is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession of the Property and not within the control of the Trustee or the Noteholder.
Conveyance shall be by Trustee's Deed, without covenant or warranty, express or implied. The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty to the Property from and after the time of sale shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. The Property shall be sold subject to all taxes, ground rents, public charges, assessments, sewer, water, drainage, and other public improvements, if any, whether assessments have been levied or not. The Noteholder and Trustee assume no liability for fuel, gas, electricity, utilities, and other operating charges accrued before or after the sale and all such charges shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser from the date of sale. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the successful purchaser. The District of Columbia Government may impose transfer and recordation taxes on any assignment of the successful bid prior to recordation of the Trustee's Deed. The successful purchaser shall be solely liable for payment of such additional transfer and recordation taxes, if any. If the Trustee cannot convey title, the purchaser's sole remedy is a return of deposit. Further particulars may be announced at the time of sale.

Mark H. Wittstadt, Trustee

4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
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Oct 6,9,11 2023 0012438100

Fellner Legal Services
485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, MD 21146
443. 906.0117

SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
2055 38th Street, SE, Unit 201,
Washington, DC 20020

Pursuant to the Declaration and Bylaws of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX dated April 16, 1978 and recorded January 1, 1978 as Instrument No. 7800012659; and by Plat recorded in Liber 21, Folio 11, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:44 P.M.**, at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
2055 38th Street, SE, Unit 201, Washington, DC 20020, which is Lot 2132 in Square 5670, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX,
2055 38th Street, SE, Unit 201, Washington, DC 20020 is the property conveyed to Steven C. Osborne by Deed recorded on 10/25/04 as Instrument No. 2004148019.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437409

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485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, MD 21146
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SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
3916 Southern Ave., SE,
Washington, DC 20020

Pursuant to the Declaration and Bylaws of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM II dated November 11, 1974 and recorded January 1, 1974 as Instrument No. 7400025603; and by Plat recorded in Liber 21, Folio 11, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:40 P.M.**, at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
3916 Southern Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20020, which is Lot 2192 in Square 5672, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM II, is the property conveyed to Perla Nino by Deed recorded on 8/8/91 as Instrument No. 9100040101.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM II
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437408

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SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
271 G St, SW, Washington, DC, 20024

Pursuant to District of Columbia Condominium Act of 1976, Section 313 (as amended) and by the Declaration of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM dated August 14, 1973, and recorded August 14, 1973 as Instrument No. 1973020262 among the land records of the District of Columbia; and those certain By-Laws of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM dated November 4, 2006 and recorded November 17, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006156574 among the aforementioned, and by Plat recorded in Liber 129, Folio 50, in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:50 P.M.**, within the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc. located at 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
271 G St, SW, Washington, DC, 20024, which is Lot 2099 in Square 0540, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., is the property conveyed to Maurice Edward Reveley, Sr. by Deed recorded on 3/25/2020 as Instrument No. 2020039966.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437406

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SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
224 G Street, SW, #110,
Washington, DC 20024

Pursuant to District of Columbia Condominium Act of 1976, Section 313 (as amended) and by the Declaration of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM dated August 14, 1973, and recorded August 14, 1973 as Instrument No. 1973020262 among the land records of the District of Columbia; and those certain By-Laws of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM dated November 4, 2006 and recorded November 17, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006156574 among the aforementioned, and by Plat recorded in Liber 129, Folio 50, in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:52 P.M.**, within the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., located at 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
224 G Street, SW, #110, Washington, DC 20024, which is Lot 2201 in Square 0540, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of CAPITOL PARK IV CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., is the property conveyed to Howlie R. Davis by Deed recorded on 7/7/99 as Instrument No. 9900061227.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437404

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485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, MD 21146
443. 906.0117

SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 202,
Washington, DC 20020

Pursuant to the Declaration and Bylaws of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX dated April 16, 1978 and recorded January 1, 1978 as Instrument No. 7800012659; and by Plat recorded in Liber 21, Folio 11, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:42 P.M.**, at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc.,4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 202, Washington, DC 20020, which is Lot 2111 in Square 5670, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX,
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 202, Washington, DC 20020 is the property conveyed to Anna D. Stephens by Deed recorded on 1/26/89 as Instrument No. 8900004823.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437398

Fellner Legal Services
485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, MD 21146
443. 906.0117

SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
2026 37th Street, SE, Unit B,
Washington, DC 20020

Pursuant to the Declaration and Bylaws of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX dated April 16, 1978 and recorded January 1, 1978 as Instrument No. 7800012659; and by Plat recorded in Liber 21, Folio 11, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:54 P.M.**, at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
2026 37th Street, SE, Unit B, Washington, DC 20020, which is Lot 2177 in Square 5670, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX,
2026 37th Street, SE, Unit B, Washington, DC 20020 is the property conveyed to Kimberley A. Poindexter by Deed recorded on 12/26/95 as Instrument No. 9500077161.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30 day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
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Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437401

Fellner Legal Services
485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
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SALE OF CONDOMINIUM UNIT
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 301,
Washington, DC 20020

Pursuant to the Declaration and Bylaws of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX dated April 16, 1978 and recorded January 1, 1978 as Instrument No. 7800012659; and by Plat recorded in Liber 21, Folio 11, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code 42-1903.13 (as amended), notice filed September 8, 2023, we shall sell at public auction on **October 12, 2023 at 1:46 P.M.**, at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc., 4910 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20016, the following premises:
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 301, Washington, DC 20020, which is Lot 2112 in Square 5670, together with an undivided interest in the general common elements; and together with any and all interest in the limited common elements appertaining to said Condominium Unit as described in the Declaration of FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX,
2037 38th Street, SE, Unit 301, Washington, DC 20020 is the property conveyed to Fat Daddy Smith by Deed recorded on 4/19/05 as Instrument No. 2005053950.
TERMS OF SALE:
Pursuant to the ruling of the Court of Appeals in Liu v. US Bank, N.A., the Condominium may not waive its super priority lien. The above notice has been sent to all lienholders, and at the time of sale, the Trustee will announce whether the super-priority lien has been satisfied. If the super priority lien is satisfied, then the sale will proceed subject to all prior liens, encumbrances, and/or municipal assessments if any, including the first deed of trust.
If the super priority lien is not satisfied at that time, then pursuant to the District of Columbia Code Section 42-1903.13, the Condominium is foreclosing on six months' worth of assessments and the related fees and costs. Pursuant to the ruling of the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals in Chase Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., the sale is NOT subject to the first deed of trust. In that instance, the Condominium's lien on which the foreclosure is proceeding holds a higher priority than the lien created by the first deed of trust and if the foreclosure sale generates insufficient proceeds to satisfy any prior liens, the foreclosure sale will extinguish the lien created by the prior deed of trust.
It is solely the purchaser's responsibility to determine the condo fees obligations, priority, significance, and effect on auction sale. The property is sold as-is as to conditions and occupancy. A deposit of $10,000 will be required at time of sale, such deposit to be in cash or certified check. All conveyances, recordings, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and re-sold at the discretion of the Unit Owner's Association and at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to 42 D.C. Code 1903.13 and makes no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association cannot guarantee clear title or the purchaser's ability to obtain Title Insurance. For this reason, the purchaser may not be able to obtain financing and must be able to pay the purchase balance in any case within 30 days. The 30-day period may be extended for any reason at the sole discretion of the Association. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit.

Brian R. Fellner, FLS, Attorney for
FAIRFAX VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM IX
bfellner@flslawyer.com

4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

Oct 2,6,11 2023 0012437396

850 Montgomery County

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLC
11900 Parklawn Drive, Ste 310
Rockville, MD 20852
844-442-2150
TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
13339 FOXHALL DRIVE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

Under a power of sale contained in that Deed of Trust dated May 11, 2009, and recorded in Liber 37561, folio 055, of the land records of **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**, with an original principal balance of $124,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the appointed Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850 ON,

OCTOBER 11, 2023 at 1:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND together with any buildings or improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust.

13-01390987

The property and improvements will be sold in an "AS IS" physical condition without warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of $9,500.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may determine, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The balance of the purchase price together with interest thereon at 4.750% per annum from date of sale to receipt of purchase price by Substitute Trustees must be paid by cashier's check within 10 days after final ratification of sale. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event that additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. All real estate taxes and other public charges and/or assessments to be adjusted as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. If applicable, any condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the date of sale shall be purchaser's responsibility. Purchaser shall pay all transfer, documentary and recording taxes/fees and all other settlement costs. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. Time is of the essence for the purchaser. If purchaser defaults, deposit will be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Substitute Trustees do not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such even this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. File No. (20-072643)

Keith Yacko,
David Williamson,
Bryson Stephen,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Sep 22,29,Oct 6 2023 0012433636

840 Trustees Sale - DC

PARKER, SIMON & KOKOLIS, LLC
110 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 500
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
301-656-5775

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF 4 UNIT RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM BUILDING AND PARKING SPACE KNOWN AS 1461 CHAPIN STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009.

By virtue of a certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents and Security Agreement dated September 28, 2021 (the “Deed of Trust”) duly recorded October 18, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021137468 among the Land Records of the District of Columbia (the “Land Records”) and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 notice recorded among the Land Record as Instrument No. 2023068571, a default having occurred in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and the covenants contained therein, and at the request of the party secured thereby (the “Noteholder”), the undersigned Substitute Trustees, will sell, at public auction, within the office of ALEX COOPER AUCTIONEERS, INC., 4910 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 100, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 on

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 AT 12:25 PM

The property to be sold consists of the Original Secured Property located in the District of Columbia which is currently subdivided and is as follows:
Lot Numbered One Hundred Eighty-One (181) in Harry Wardman and other subdivision of Lot Numbered Thirty-Six (36) in the subdivision of the “The South Grounds of Columbia University” and of Lot Numbered One (1) in Block 18 “Meridian Hill”, per plat of said first mentioned subdivision recorded in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia in Liber County 19 at Folio 76, (the “Real Property”) which has the address of 1461 Chapin Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20009. Square 2662 Lot 0181. (The “Original Secured Property”)
The property consists of 4 individual condominium units and one parking space. The units were a former portion of Square 2662 Lot 0181, which is currently subdivided into Square 2662 Lots 2291-2295 being further described as follows:
Residential Units One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4) and Parking Space One (P-1) in the Condominium known as “MERIDIAN OVERLOOK CONDOMINIUM” according to the Declaration of Condominium dated May 9, 2018, and recorded March 26, 2019 as Instrument No. 2019030747, and the By-Laws of Condominium dated May 9, 2018, and recorded March 26, 2019, as Instrument No. 2019030748, and said final Plat and Plans of Condominium Subdivision recorded December 15, 2022, in Condo Book 104 at Page 50, as amended by that First Amended and Restated Declaration and that First Amended and Restated Bylaws as Instrument Numbers 2022125679 and 2022125680 on December 23, 2022, among the Land Records of the District of Columbia, and any recorded amendments thereto as of the date hereof, together with an undivided percentage share interest in the Common Elements of said “MERIDIAN OVERLOOK CONDOMINIUM” as set forth in said Declaration of Condominium and the Exhibits thereto, the Condominium Declaration allocates to the Condominium Residential Units an undivided interest (stated as a percentage) in the common elements of the Condominium (hereinafter called the “Percentage Interest”)
The Percentage Interests of the Condominium Units are set forth in the Condominium Declaration, said Condominium project is situate on Lot 181 (now known after subdivision as Lots 2291-2295 in Square 2662 in the subdivision made by Harry Wardman and others, as per plat recorded in Liber County 19 at folio 76 in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia but for which no certificate of occupancy permits has yet to be issued. (Collectively, the “Subdivided Property”)
Parcel ID: 2662-2291 1461 Chapin Street, NW # 1
Parcel ID: 2662-2292 1461 Chapin Street, NW # 2
Parcel ID: 2662-2293 1461 Chapin Street, NW # 3
Parcel ID: 2662-2294 1461 Chapin Street, NW # 4
Parcel ID: 2662-2295 1461 Chapin Street, NW # P-1
1461 Chapin Street, NW Units 1, 2, 3, 4 & P-1
(Collectively, the “Subdivided Property”)
TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the above-described land, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances, and any furniture, furnishings, equipment, machinery and other personal property owned and located in, upon or about the above-described land and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust (the “Property”).
TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. The property will be offered individually and as an entirety. The sale will be made in the manner producing the greater amount of money. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to change the manner of offering at the time of sale.
The bid which yields the highest price for the Property will be accepted by the Substitute Trustees (unless the sale is postponed or cancelled) and all bids will be provisional until acceptance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Substitute Trustees absolutely reserve the right to postpone the sale and/or cancel the sale at any time until the auctioneer announces that the Property is “sold” and the deposit in the required amount and form is received by the Substitute Trustees. A deposit in the amount of $25,000 per unit for Units 1, 2, 3, 4 if sold individually and a deposit of $5,0000 on Parking Space (P-1) if sold individually. If the combined bids on those units and parking space sold individually does not satisfy the debt, then those bids shall be held in abeyance, and the units and parking space shall be offered together. If sold as an entirety, a deposit in the amount of $105,000. The highest bid offered between the combined bids of the units and parking space sold individually or the units and parking space sold as an entirety shall be the winning bid. All deposits must be in the form of cashier's or certified check, or in any other form suitable to the Substitute Trustees in their sole discretion, shall be required at the time of sale, except no deposit shall be required of the secured party, its successors or assigns. The deposit must be increased to 10% of the winning bid amount and delivered to the Substitute Trustees within one business day after the consummation of the sale in the same form of funds as the initial deposit. Failure to timely tender the deposit shall constitute a material default by the purchaser. The Noteholder secured by the Deed of Trust (or any related party) shall be exempted by the Substitute Trustees from submitting any bidding deposit. The Substitute Trustees will, as a condition of the sale, require all potential bidders except the Noteholder to show their deposit before any bidding begins. The retained deposit of the successful purchaser shall be applied, without interest, to the successful purchaser's credit at settlement, provided, however, that in the event the successful purchaser fails to consummate the purchase in accordance with the terms of sale as herein provided, such deposit, at the option of the Substitute Trustees, shall immediately be forfeited. The terms of sale must be complied with and settlement consummated thereon within 30 days from day of sale unless extended at the sole discretion of the Substitute Trustees. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the note default rate of 23% per annum from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement in certified funds; and if not so paid by the time specified herein, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. The Substitute Trustees shall be entitled to avail themselves and the Noteholder of any legal or equitable rights against the defaulting purchaser. In the event of a resale, the defaulting Purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. In the event that settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest.
The Property is sold subject to the rights, if any, of parties in possession, if such rights have priority over the Deed of Trust, and to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, rights of way, and limitations of record. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. The Property will be sold “WHERE IS” and in “AS IS” condition without any warranty or representation as to condition, express or implied, and without any representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information furnished to prospective bidders by the Substitute Trustees or any other party and without any other representations or warranty of any nature. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Property will be sold without representation or warranty as to (i) title to the Property, (ii) the nature, condition, compliance, quality, structural integrity, or fitness for a particular use of any improvements, fixtures or personal property included within the Property, (iii) the environmental condition of the Property or the compliance of the Property with federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning the presence or disposal of hazardous substances, (iv) compliance of the Property with the Americans with Disabilities Act or any similar law, or (v) compliance of the Property with any zoning and construction laws or ordinances and any and all applicable safety and building codes and regulations, and acceptance of the Deed to the Property by the successful purchaser shall constitute a waiver of any claims against the Substitute Trustees or the Noteholder concerning any of the foregoing matters. The successful purchaser recognizes that any investigation, examination or inspection of the Property is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession of the Property and not within the control of the Substitute Trustees or the Noteholder.
Conveyance shall be by Substitute Trustees' Deed, without any covenant or warranty, express or implied. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey either insurable or marketable title, then Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit to the Purchaser. The risk of loss or damage by fire or other casualty to the Property from and after the date of sale will be upon the successful purchaser. Sold subject to all taxes, ground rents, public charges, assessments, violations, liens, sewer, water, drainage and other public improvements whether assessments have been levied or not and whether such have been recorded or not. The Noteholder and Substitute Trustees assume no liability for fuel, gas, electricity, water and sewer charges, utilities and other operating charges accrued before or after the sale and all such charges shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser from the date of sale. All costs incident to the settlement and conveyancing including, without limitation, examination of title, conveyancing, all recordation taxes and charges, all transfer taxes and charges, title insurance premiums, financing charges and fees, notary fees, settlement fees and all other costs incident to settlement shall be at the cost of the successful purchaser. If the Substitute Trustees cannot convey title, the purchaser's sole remedy is a return of deposit. Further particulars may be announced at the time of sale. For further information, please contact Paul Cooper 443-470-1437.

Craig A. Parker and Thomas J. Kokolis,
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016 • 202.364.0306
www.alexcooper.com

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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
12-STORY COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING
WITH GROUND FLOOR RETAIL

Located in the Dupont Circle Historic District

1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Security Agreement, and Fixture Filing dated as of July 12, 2019, and recorded with the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds (“Land Records”) as Instrument No. 2019073946 (the “Deed of Trust”), the holder of the indebtedness secured thereby, **BRSP 1201 CT, LLC, ultimate successor-in-interest to BrightSpire Credit 6, LLC** (formerly known as CLNC Credit 6, LLC) (the “Beneficiary”), having appointed John T. Farnum as Substitute Trustee by instrument duly executed, acknowledged and recorded among the Land Records as Instrument No.: 2023024319, and having also appointed Emily K. Devan as Substitute Trustee by court order granted September 12, 2023, in Superior Court of the District of Columbia Case No. 2023-CAB-001731, default having occurred under the terms of said Deed of Trust and at the request of the Beneficiary, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer the following property for sale at Public Auction:

Sale to be held at the Offices of
Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc.
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20016
On Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

Such property also being known as 1201 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036.
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (the “Real Estate”):
ALL OF THOSE LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
PARTS OF LOTS ELEVEN (11) AND TWELVE (12) IN A. JARDIN AND GEORGE H. WILLIAMS SUBDIVISION OF SQUARE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE (159), AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN LIBER NO. W.B.M. AT FOLIO 21 OF THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; ALSO LOTS FORTY-NINE (49) AND FIFTY (50) IN MARIANA V. LOTHROP'S SUBDIVISION OF LOTS IN SQUARE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE (159), AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN LIBER 12 AT FOLIO 173 OF SAID SURVEYOR'S OFFICE RECORDS, ALL OF SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 12, BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF RHODE ISLAND AVENUE WITH THE EASTERLY LINE OF CONNECTICUT AVENUE; THENCE
NORTHWESTERLY WITH THE LINE OF CONNECTICUT AVENUE, A DISTANCE OF 87.22 FEET; THENCE
EASTERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE LINE OF RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, A DISTANCE OF 80.80 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 50; THENCE
NORTHERLY WITH SAID WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 50, A MEASURED DISTANCE OF 22.03 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE
EASTERLY WITH THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LOTS 50 AND 49, BEING ALSO PARTLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF AN ALLEY (CLOSED), A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF AN 18-FOOT PUBLIC ALLEY; THENCE
SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID ALLEY, A DISTANCE OF 109.21 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, BEING ALSO THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT 49; THENCE
WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, A DISTANCE OF 180.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 12 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
NOTE: AT THE DATE HEREOF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED LAND IS DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE ASSESSOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION PURPOSES AS LOT EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE (855) IN SQUARE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE (159).

FIXTURES

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, Beneficiary holds a security interest and lien on all of the tangible and intangible assets of Borrower and will sell at public auction on the same date and at the same time and place, ALL OF THE FIXTURES of Borrower located on or about the Real Estate (that is subject to the security interest and lien of Beneficiary and not owned by any third party).
TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the Real Estate, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances and located in, upon or about the Real Estate and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust (collectively, the “**Property**”). The Property does not include any personal property owned by any tenants.
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
The Property will be sold in an “AS IS/WHERE IS” condition without any representations or express or implied warranties of any nature whatsoever. In particular, neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary make any representation or warranty with respect to, without limitation: (1) the existence, nonexistence, or continued existence, validity, scope or nature of any zoning, land use, development, site plans, occupancy or other governmental permits or approvals; (2) fitness for any particular purpose or use; (3) flood zone designations; (4) compliance with any and all zoning or building laws, regulations and ordinances; (5) the fitness for habitation or the structural integrity or condition of any buildings or improvements; (6) ingress, egress or access to the Property or any portion thereof, whether vehicular, pedestrian or otherwise; (7) the rights of parties in possession, if any, or the existence, validity, terms, conditions or other matters with respect to any lease of all or any portion of the Property; (8) the existence of any security deposits or rental payments; (9) compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; or (10) the condition of the Property, either patent or latent, of any nature whatsoever, including environmental contamination.
Neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary shall have any obligation to obtain possession of the Property. It shall be the purchaser's obligation, at the purchaser's sole cost, to obtain possession of the Property.
RISK OF LOSS, INSURABLE OR OTHERWISE, SHALL PASS TO THE PURCHASER IMMEDIATELY AND AUTOMATICALLY AT THE TIME OF SALE. Neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary shall have any obligation to obtain or maintain any insurance coverage with respect to the Property.
The Property shall be sold subject to: (1) any easements, restrictions, declarations, site plans, and restrictive covenants of record affecting the same, including, but not limited to any and all condominium restrictions, declarations, bylaws and plats and amendments thereto; (2) any and all disclosures and conditions on any plats of record affecting all or any portion of the Property; (3) any encroachments, overlaps, boundary line disputes and other matters which could be disclosed by an accurate survey of the Property; (4) any matters which would be disclosed by a physical inspection of the Property; (5) any and all environmental conditions, problems and/or violations, if any, that may exist on, affect or relate to the Property or any buildings or improvements thereon; and (6) any and all zoning laws, regulations, PUD overlays, and ordinances or governmental permits or approvals affecting the Property (including without limitation any housing or building code violations, the existence of any lead paint, asbestos or radon or any other hazardous or toxic substances).
WAIVERS:
The purchaser waives and releases the Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary and each of their respective affiliates, agents, successors and assigns from any and all claims the purchaser may now have or may have in the future relating to: (1) any environmental condition or violation affecting all or any portion of the Property; (2) any existing or future building or zoning code problems or violations, and (3) the accuracy or validity of any information described herein.
IMPROVEMENTS:
The Property is believed to be improved by a 12-story office building containing approximately 174,493 square feet± of net leasable area. The Substitute Trustees believe, but make no representations, that the Property is zoned MU-21/DC.
TERMS OF SALE:
This advertisement, as amended or supplemented by any oral announcements during the conduct of the sale, constitutes the Substitute Trustees' entire terms upon which the Property shall be offered for sale, sold or purchased. The Substitute Trustees reserve the unqualified right to postpone the sale, withdraw the Property from sale, in whole or in part, at any time before sale or to release the Property, in whole or in part, from the Deed of Trust at any time before the sale. If the Substitute Trustees determine that the final bid is not commensurate with the value of the Property, they may reject the bid and withdraw the Property from sale. If any dispute arises among the bidders, the Substitute Trustees shall have the sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to reoffer and resell the Property. A cash deposit or certified check made payable to either of the Substitute Trustees (or as otherwise instructed by the Substitute Trustees) in the amount of $1,000,000 will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The purchaser is required to increase its deposit to five percent (5%) of the bid price within two business days from the date of the auction. All cash deposits or certified checks shall be delivered to the Substitute Trustees c/o Miles & Stockbridge P.C., 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20004, Attn: John T. Farnum and shall be held by the Substitute Trustees in a non-interest-bearing account to be applied to the purchase price at the time of settlement. The Beneficiary, or its nominee, if the successful bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. The balance of such purchase price, together with interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum on the unpaid purchase money from the date of sale to date of settlement (as hereinafter specified) must be paid in cash or by certified check on the date of settlement.
All outstanding real property taxes shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. All other taxes and assessments, including, but not limited to, rents, if any, ground rents, other public charges, sewer charges, water rents, regular and special assessments and utilities payable on an annual or any other basis shall be adjusted as of the date of the foreclosure sale and paid by the purchaser at settlement. The purchaser shall pay all expenses and costs required for or incident to its settlement, including, without limitation all, state and local transfer taxes, documentary taxes, recording taxes and fees, title examination costs, title insurance premiums, and attorneys' fees.
The purchaser shall settle and comply with the sale terms within thirty (30) days after entry of a court order ratifying the sale unless said period is extended by the Substitute Trustees, their successors or assigns, for good cause shown. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.
If the purchaser defaults, in addition to any other legal or equitable remedies available to them, the Substitute Trustees may declare the entire deposit forfeited and resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. The purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profit resulting from any resale of all or any portion of the Property.
Neither the Substitute Trustees, the Auctioneer, or the Beneficiary or its affiliates are liable individually or otherwise for any matter relating to the sale or to the Property, except that if title to the Property cannot be transferred in accordance with the terms hereof for any reason, such liability is limited solely to the return of the purchaser's deposit. There shall be no other rights or remedies against the Substitute Trustees, the Auctioneer and/or the Beneficiary or its affiliates, either in law or equity.
NOTE: The material contained herein describing the Property has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, no express or implied warranty is made as to the accuracy of any description. All dimensions or areas referred to herein are approximate.
For further information regarding the sale and the Property, please contact the offices or visit the website of the Auctioneer.

JOHN T. FARNUM
EMILY K. DEVAN
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER auctioneers
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851 Prince Georges County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
5617 MANSFIELD DRIVE
Temple Hills, MD 20748

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to MORTGAGE TWO CORPORATION, Trustee(s), dated September 15, 1999, and recorded among the Land Records of **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**, MARYLAND in Liber 13360 , folio 466 , the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

OCTOBER 23, 2023 at 9:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

LOT NUMBERED THIRTY-FOUR (34), BLOCK LETTERED “P”, SECTION 6, WESTCHESTER ESTATES. BEING MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 10/21/77 AND RECORDED 10/24/77, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN DEED VOLUME 4838 AND PAGE 331.

The property will be sold in an “AS IS WHERE IS” condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $9,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 9.997 % on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (19-13315)

THOMAS W. HODGE, BRENNAN FERGUSON,
CHRISTINE N. JOHNSON, JEANA MCMURRAY,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, MELISSA ALCOCER,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436953

MCMICHAEL TAYLOR GRAY, LLC
7470 Technology Way
Suite P
Frederick, MD 21703
(470) 480-1820

TRUSTEE'S SALE
5405 NEWBY AVENUE
Riverdale, MD 20737

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated July 25, 2006 and recorded in Deed Book 27844 at Page 436 among the Land Records of **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**, Maryland, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction at the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772, on

OCTOBER 24, 2023 AT 1:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust (the “Property”).
TAX ID#: 02-0133421

Said property is subject to a prior mortgage.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $14,000 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may allow, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The property and improvements will be sold in “as is” physical condition without either express or implied warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 7.8% from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey title for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the Purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the Property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without re-selling the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or the loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void and Purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest.

DIANA C. THEOLOGOU, CHRISTIAN D. SCHMIDT,
DONALD C. FONTAINE, DOUGLAS R. BLECKI,
Substitute Trustees

File No.: 22-000781-05

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436775

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
3377 CHESTER GROVE ROAD UNIT D
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to FRIEDMAN & MAC FAYDEN PA, Trustee(s), dated April 20, 2005, and recorded among the Land Records of **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**, MARYLAND in Liber 22535 , folio 321 , the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

OCTOBER 23, 2023 at 9:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

CONDOMINIUM UNIT D IN BUILDING 2 IN THE FIRST ADDITION TO WESTPHALIA WOODS CONDOMINIUM AS PURSUANT TO A CONDOMINIUM MASTER DEED MADE BY GRADY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION JOSEPH T. HUNT, JOINT VENTURE, DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1972 AND RECORDED SEPTEMBER 21, 1972, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LIBER 4123 AT FOLIO 780 AND PURSUANT TO THE PLAT FOR WESTPHALIA WOODS CONDOMINIUM DESCRIBED IN SAID MASTER DEED, RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY AND STATE IN CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK NUMBER WWW 79 AT PLATS NUMBERED 48 THROUGH 69, INCLUSIVE AND FURTHER DESCRIBED BY AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE MASTER DEED OF WESTPHALIA WOODS CONDOMINIUM, SAID AMENDMENT BEING DATED NOVEMBER 16, 1972 AND RECORDED NOVEMBER 22, 1972 IN LIBER 4152 AT FOLIO 941 AS PER PLATS THEREOF RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK WWW 81 AT PLATS 90 THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE, AND CONTINUING IN CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK WWW 82 AT PLATS 1 THROUGH 10, INCLUSIVE, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED BY AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE MASTER DEED OF WESTPHALIA WOODS CONDOMINIUM, SAID AMENDMENT BEING DATED DECEMBER 1, 1972 AND RECORDED DECEMBER 6, 1972, IN LIBER 4157 AT FOLIO 698 AS PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN CONDOMINIUM PLAT BOOK WWW 82 AT PLAT 29, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND. TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 0495366 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3377 CHESTER GROVE ROAD, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20774

The property will be sold in an “AS IS WHERE IS” condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $7,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 3.25 % on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (13-25436)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
PAUL HEINMULLER, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,
KRISTOPHER HAWKINS,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436938

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851 Prince Georges County

MCMICHAEL TAYLOR GRAY, LLC
7470 Technology Way
Suite P
Frederick, MD 21703
(470) 480-1820

TRUSTEE'S SALE
1103 TRUNNEL LANE
Accokeek, MD 20607

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated February 1, 2006 and recorded in Deed Book 24464 at Page 127 among the Land Records of **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**, Maryland, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction at the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772, on

OCTOBER 24, 2023 AT 1:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Maryland, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust (the "Property").

TAX ID#: 05-0393132

Said property is subject to a prior mortgage

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $10,000 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may allow, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without either express or implied warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 9.5% from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey title for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the Purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the Property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without re-selling the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or the loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void and Purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest.

DIANA THEOLOGOU, GREGORY THORNE,
ADRIAN JACOBS, BRIAN CAMPBELL,
CHRISTINE COTTON,
Substitute Trustees

File No.: 23-000967-01

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436672

852 Anne Arundel County

MCMICHAEL TAYLOR GRAY, LLC
7470 Technology Way
Suite P
Frederick, MD 21703
(470) 480-1820

TRUSTEE'S SALE
5463 SANDS ROAD
Lothian, MD 20711

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated May 15, 2019 and recorded in Deed Book 34120 at Page 436 among the Land Records of **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, Maryland, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction at the ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, 8 CHURCH CIR, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401, on

OCTOBER 24, 2023 AT 3:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, Maryland, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust (the "Property").

TAX ID#: 08-000-00878500

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may allow, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without either express or implied warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 8% from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey title for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the Purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the Property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without re-selling the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or the loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void and Purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest.

DIANA THEOLOGOU, GREGORY THORNE,
ADRIAN JACOBS, BRIAN CAMPBELL,
CHRISTINE COTTON,
Substitute Trustees

File No.: 23-001527-01

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436450

852 Anne Arundel County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
6 2nd Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to FRIEDMAN & MAC FAYDEN PA, Trustee(s), dated September 11, 2006, and recorded among the Land Records of **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, MARYLAND in Liber 18660 , folio 758 , the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 8 CHURCH CIR, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 ON,

OCTOBER 24, 2023 at 9:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 24, AS SHOWN ON PLAT ENTITLED "SECTION ONE" GREENWOOD ACRES ADDITION", AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY IN PLAT BOOK 139, FOLIO 35, PLAT NO. 7258. THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON BEING KNOWN AS OR TO BE KNOWN AS NO. 6 SECOND STREET.

Said property is subject to a IRS Right of Redemption.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $42,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 3.625% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (13-24444)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
PAUL HEINMULLER, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,
KRISTOPHER HAWKINS,
Substitute Trustees

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012435622

856 Frederick County

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLC
11350 McCormick Road, EP 1, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
470-321-7112

TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
2277 WETHERBURNE WAY
FREDERICK, MD 21702

Under a power of sale contained in that Deed of Trust dated August 23, 2021, and recorded in Liber 15387, folio 474, of the land records of **FREDERICK COUNTY** , with an original principal balance of $350,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the appointed Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

OCTOBER 24, 2023 at 10:15 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND together with any buildings or improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust.

TAX ID# - 02-190451

The property and improvements will be sold in an "AS IS" physical condition without warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, including any condominium or homeowners association assessments pursuant to MD Real Property Article Â§ 11-110 and Â§ 11B-117 .

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of $34,500.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may determine, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The balance of the purchase price together with interest thereon at 3.750% per annum from date of sale to receipt of purchase price by Substitute Trustees must be paid by cashier's check within 10 days after final ratification of sale. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event that additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. All real estate taxes and other public charges and/or assessments to be adjusted as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. If applicable, any condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the date of sale shall be purchaser's responsibility. Purchaser shall pay all transfer, documentary and recording taxes/fees and all other settlement costs. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. Time is of the essence for the purchaser. If purchaser defaults, deposit will be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Substitute Trustees do not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. File No. (23-096779)

KEITH YACKO, DAVID WILLIAMSON,
BRYSON STEPHEN, THOMAS GARTNER,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012435330

852 Anne Arundel County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
3119 Arundel On The Bay Rd
Annapolis, MD 21403

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to WILLIAM J. PETRINA, Trustee(s), dated February 21, 2013, and recorded among the Land Records of **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, MARYLAND in Liber 25865, folio 276, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 8 CHURCH CIR, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 ON,

OCTOBER 24, 2023 at 9:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN AS LOT 2R, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATIVE MINOR SUBDIVISION, LOT LINE CHANGE OF THE MAPP PROPERTY", RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY AS PLAT 10866, PLAT BOOK 206, PAGE 40.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $7,500.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 3.34% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (22-04303)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
PAUL HEINMULLER, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,
KRISTOPHER HAWKINS,
Substitute Trustees

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012435325

856 Frederick County

GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
201 International Circle, Suite 230
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
7295 COACHLIGHT COURT, UNIT C
Frederick, MD 21703

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from ALTA L. TOMS, dated December 7, 2007 and recorded in book 6828 , page 0803 among the Land Records of **FREDERICK COUNTY**, Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. C-10-CV-22-000604; Tax ID No. 01-000411) the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction FREDERICK COUNTY courthouse located at 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 .

OCTOBER 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $ 21,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for FREDERICK COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at five percent (5%) from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee is unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 68612.0064)

SYDNEY E. ROBERSON,
NICOLE LIPINSKI,
MARC MEDEL,
Substitute Trustee (s)

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Sep 22,29,Oct 6 2023 0012434208

853 Calvert County

Brock and Scott, PLLC
5431 Oleander Drive
Wilmington NC, 28403

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS
903 Spur Ct
Lusby, MD 20657

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to GEORGE MANTAKOS, Trustee(s), dated January 16, 2013, and recorded among the Land Records of **CALVERT COUNTY**, MARYLAND in Liber 4105 , folio 0227, MODIFIED MARCH 15, 2018 IN BOOK 5163, PAGE 196, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE CALVERT COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 175 MAIN ST, PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678 ON,

OCTOBER 23, 2023 at 12:45 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in CALVERT COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

LOT NUMBERED SEVEN (7), SECTION 8-R, IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "CHESAPEAKE RANCH ESTATES" AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND IN LIBER JLB 2 AT FOLIO 55.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $19,500.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 3.25 % on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense, of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (20-07710)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLE,
PAUL HEINMULLER,
Substitute Trustees

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Oct 6,13,20 2023 0012436955

857 Howard County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
6432 Woodland Forest Dr, Elkridge, MD 21075

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 6432 Woodland Forest Dr, Elkridge, MD 21075. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated November 22, 2016, and recorded in Liber 17294 at Page 408 among the land records of the **County of Howard**, in the original principal amount of $171,400.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the County of Howard, located at 9250 Judicial Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043, on **October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 01-248111

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 22-292439.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200,
Manassas, Virginia 20109
(410) 769-9797

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Sep 29,Oct 6,13 2023 0012435767

857 Howard County

TRUSTEE'S SALE
7646 Old Rockbridge Dr, Elkridge, MD 21075

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 7646 Old Rockbridge Dr, Elkridge, MD 21075. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated August 23, 2005, and recorded in Liber 9579 at Page 634 among the land records of the **County of Howard**, in the original principal amount of $49,900.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the County of Howard, located at 9250 Judicial Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043, on **October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 01-248138

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 23-292835.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,
10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200,
Manassas, Virginia 20109
(410) 769-9797

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
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Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797

Sep 29,Oct 6,13 2023 0012433680

878 Stafford County

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
702 Grafton Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 15, 2019 and recorded at Instrument Number 190003661 in the Clerk's Office for the **Stafford County** Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally $252,465.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps of the Judicial Building, Circuit Court for Stafford County located at 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554.

November 06, 2023 at 10:00 AM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

All that certain lot or parcel of land with improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto lying, being and situate in Leeland Magisterial District, Stafford County, Virginia, known as Lot 12, Section 6, Grafton Village Subdivision, as shown on plat of said subdivision recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Stafford County, Virginia in Plat Book 3 at page 67. Subject to that certain Deed of Dedication dated July 25,1966 and recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 169 at page 550.
Parcel ID: 54K812

Commonly Known As: 702 Grafton Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of $20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of $470.00 for review of the settlement documents.
Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Oct 6,13 2023 0012433981

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
19 Webb Court, Stafford, VA 22556

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 27, 2007 and recorded at Instrument Number LR070012988 in the Clerk's Office for the **Stafford County** Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally $428,500.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front steps of the Judicial Building, Circuit Court for Stafford County located at 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554.

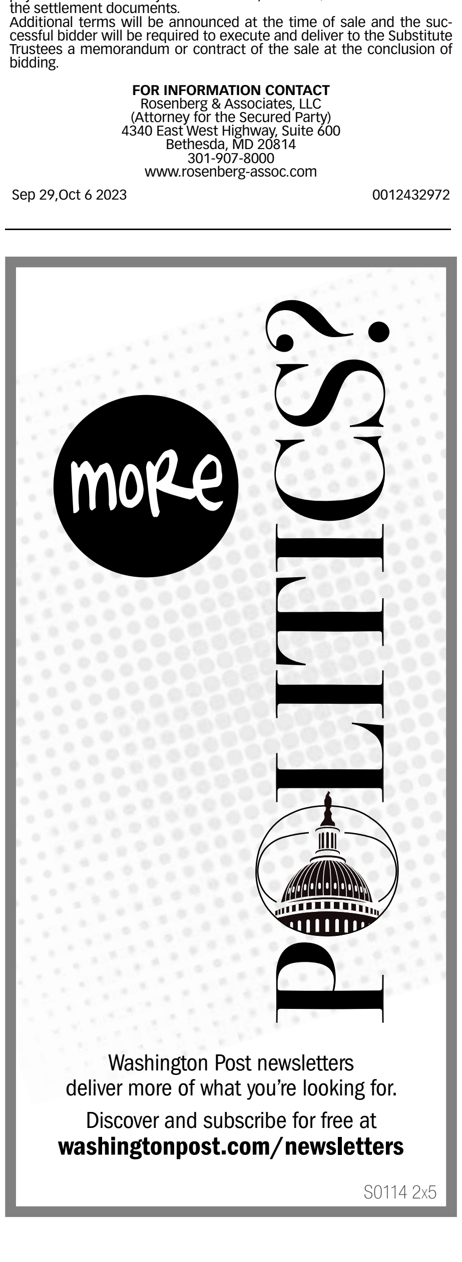
October 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

Being Known and Designated as lot 146, as shown on Plat of Subdivision Apple Grove, Section 3B, Dated February 27, 2002. Last Revised March 20, 2002, Prepared by ATCS, P.L.C., Recorded at Plat Map #020000115 Among the Land Records of Stafford County, Virginia

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of $20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of $470.00 for review of the settlement documents.
Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
(Attorney for the Secured Party)
4340 East West Highway, Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-907-8000
www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Sep 29,Oct 6 2023 0012432972